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Level 6

Nearly 600 volunteer to be absent father

10th January, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180110-absent-fathers.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180110-absent-fathers.html>

A junior high school in Texas, USA was pleasantly surprised after being swamped by volunteers to stand in for absent fathers. Billy Earl Dade Middle School, in the city of Dallas, posted on Facebook asking for 50 male volunteers to substitute for absent fathers in an event called "Breakfast with Dads". Event organizers were inundated with replies. They said they were astounded after nearly 600 men responded to the request and turned up at the event. The school's inaugural "Breakfast with Dads" event was to enhance community spirit. Around 90 per cent of the children come from low-income families. Many of the students did not have a father who was able to participate in the event.

The school said the "Breakfast with Dads" event was part of an overall plan to improve its academic position. Community leaders, mentors and local organizations have combined to implement various projects to increase test scores. There has been some academic improvement at the school as a result of their efforts. A local pastor, the Reverend Donald Parish Jr, said: "When a young person sees someone other than their teacher take interest in them, it inspires them." A school liaison officer, Ellyn Favors, commented on the success of the event. She said: "The look of awe, even disbelief, in students' eyes as they made their way through the crowd of "Dads" was astonishing."

Sources: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/billy-earl-dade-middle-school-dallas-breakfast-with-dads-asks-50-volunteers-600-a8146291.html>
<http://www.sltrib.com/news/nation-world/2018/01/07/a-school-sought-50-men-to-stand-in-for-absent-fathers-at-breakfast-with-dads-nearly-600-showed-up/>
<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/dallas-isd/2017/12/07/male-mentors-needed-eat-breakfast-south-dallas-middle-schooler-dads-event>

WARM-UPS

1. FATHERS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about fathers. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

junior high school / surprised / swamped / volunteers / absent / father / community / plan / mentors / projects / improvement / interest / success / disbelief / students

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. BREAKFAST: Students A **strongly** believe it is important for a family to have breakfast together; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. VOLUNTEER: What could you do by volunteering at these places? Complete this table and share what you wrote with your partner(s). Change partners often.

	Who could you help?	What could you do?
School		
Park		
Hospital		
Beach		
Online		
A city		

5. COMMUNITY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "community". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. FATHER: Rank these with your partner. Put the most important attributes for a father at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- hero
- disciplinarian
- role model
- guide
- protector
- teacher
- supporter
- friend

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. pleasantly | a. Flooded with an excessive amount of something. |
| 2. swamped | b. Use or add in place of. |
| 3. stand in | c. In an enjoyable or agreeable way. |
| 4. substitute | d. Shocked or greatly surprised. |
| 5. inundated | e. Overwhelmed someone with things or people to be dealt with. |
| 6. astounded | f. Marking the beginning of an institution, activity, or period of office. |
| 7. inaugural | g. Take the place of someone for a short time. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 8. enhance | h. A feeling of great respect mixed with fear or wonder. |
| 9. academic | i. Put a decision, plan, agreement, etc. into effect. |
| 10. mentors | j. Fill someone with the urge or ability to do or feel something, especially to do something creative. |
| 11. implement | k. Make stronger, increase, or improve the quality, value, or extent of something or someone. |
| 12. inspires | l. Relating to education and scholarship. |
| 13. liaison | m. Communication or cooperation that helps a close working relationship between people or organizations. |
| 14. awe | n. Experienced people who help and provide guidance for others. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180110-absent-fathers.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE:

Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. A junior high school wasn't surprised at getting so many volunteers. **T / F**
- b. The junior high school asked for 50 male volunteers. **T / F**
- c. The junior high school held it's third "Breakfast with Dads" event. **T / F**
- d. About 90% of the school's children are from poorer families. **T / F**
- e. The school's event was part of bettering its academic position. **T / F**
- f. The school's test scores have been going down. **T / F**
- g. A pastor said the event would not inspire students. **T / F**
- h. A school liaison officer said the students had a bored look in their eyes. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. swamped | a. first |
| 2. substitute | b. amazing |
| 3. astounded | c. take part |
| 4. inaugural | d. flooded |
| 5. participate | e. joined |
| 6. overall | f. amazed |
| 7. combined | g. wonder |
| 8. efforts | h. stand in |
| 9. awe | i. endeavors |
| 10. astonishing | j. all-inclusive |

3. PHRASE MATCH:

(Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. pleasantly | a. of their efforts |
| 2. Event organizers were inundated | b. in the event |
| 3. nearly 600 men responded | c. plan |
| 4. come from low- | d. surprised |
| 5. a father who was able to participate | e. to the request |
| 6. part of an overall | f. students' eyes |
| 7. implement various | g. income families |
| 8. as a result | h. through the crowd |
| 9. disbelief in | i. with replies |
| 10. they made their way | j. projects |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180110-absent-fathers.html>

A junior high school in Texas, USA was (1) _____ surprised after being swamped by volunteers to (2) _____ in for absent fathers. Billy Earl Dade Middle School, in the city of Dallas, posted on Facebook asking for 50 male (3) _____ to substitute for absent fathers in an event called "Breakfast with Dads". Event organizers were inundated with (4) _____. They said they were astounded after nearly 600 men responded to the (5) _____ and turned up at the event. The school's inaugural "Breakfast with Dads" event was to enhance community (6) _____. Around 90 per cent of the children come from low-(7) _____ families. Many of the students did not have a father who was able to (8) _____ in the event.

volunteers
request
income
pleasantly
participate
stand
replies
spirit

The school said the "Breakfast with Dads" event was (9) _____ of an overall plan to improve its academic (10) _____. Community leaders, mentors and local organizations have combined to implement various (11) _____ to increase test scores. There has been some (12) _____ improvement at the school as a result of their efforts. A local pastor, the Reverend Donald Parish Jr, said: "When a young person sees someone (13) _____ than their teacher take interest in them, it inspires them." A school (14) _____ officer, Elyn Favors, commented on the (15) _____ of the event. She said: "The look of awe, even disbelief, in students' eyes as they made their way through the (16) _____ of "Dads" was astonishing."

position
academic
success
part
other
crowd
projects
liaison

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180110-absent-fathers.html>

- 1) pleasantly surprised after being _____ volunteers
 - a. swamped buy
 - b. swarmed by
 - c. stamped by
 - d. swamped by
- 2) they were astounded after nearly 600 men responded to the request and _____
 - a. tuned up
 - b. turned it up
 - c. tuned it up
 - d. turned up
- 3) The school's inaugural "Breakfast with Dads" event was to _____ spirit
 - a. enhance community
 - b. ensconce community
 - c. perchance community
 - d. by chance community
- 4) Around 90 per cent of the children come from _____ families
 - a. lowly-income
 - b. low-income
 - c. low-incomes
 - d. lowered-incomes
- 5) Many of the students did not have a father who was able _____
 - a. to parteciple
 - b. to appreciate
 - c. to precipitate
 - d. to participate
- 6) the "Breakfast with Dads" event was part of an overall plan to improve its _____
 - a. academic position
 - b. academically position
 - c. academia position
 - d. academy position
- 7) local organizations have combined to implement various projects to increase _____
 - a. tests scores
 - b. tested scores
 - c. test scores
 - d. testy scores
- 8) There has been some academic improvement at the school as a result _____
 - a. of them efforts
 - b. of their efforts
 - c. of they efforts
 - d. of there efforts
- 9) a young person sees someone other than their teacher take interest in them, _____
 - a. it conspires them
 - b. it aspires them
 - c. it respires them
 - d. it inspires them
- 10) disbelief in students' eyes as they made their way through _____ "Dads"
 - a. the crowd of
 - b. the cloud of
 - c. the crowned of
 - d. the clowned of

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180110-absent-fathers.html>

A junior high school in Texas, USA was (1) _____ after being swamped by volunteers to (2) _____ absent fathers. Billy Earl Dade Middle School, in the city of Dallas, posted on Facebook asking for 50 male volunteers (3) _____ absent fathers in an event called "Breakfast with Dads". Event organizers were inundated with replies. They said they (4) _____ nearly 600 men responded to the request and turned up at the event. The school's inaugural "Breakfast with Dads" event (5) _____ community spirit. Around 90 per cent of the children come from low-income families. Many of the students did not have a father who was able (6) _____ the event.

The school said the "Breakfast with Dads" event was part of (7) _____ to improve its academic position. Community (8) _____ local organizations have combined to implement various projects to increase test scores. There has been some academic improvement at the school as a result (9) _____. A local pastor, the Reverend Donald Parish Jr, said: "When a young person sees someone (10) _____ teacher take interest in them, (11) _____." A school liaison officer, Ellyn Favors, commented on the success of the event. She said: "The look of awe, even disbelief, in students' eyes as they made their way (12) _____ of "Dads" was astonishing."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180110-absent-fathers.html>

1. What kind of school asked for male volunteers?
2. How many volunteers did the school ask for?
3. What was the name of the event?
4. How many events of this kind had there been before?
5. What per cent of children at the school came from low-income families?
6. What position did the school want to improve?
7. What did the school want to increase by implementing various projects?
8. Who is Donald Parish Jr?
9. What did Mr Parish say inspires children?
10. What did a liaison officer say students made their way through?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180110-absent-fathers.html>

- 1) What kind of school asked for male volunteers?
 - a) an elementary school
 - b) a junior high school
 - c) a technical school
 - d) a high school
- 2) How many volunteers did the school ask for?
 - a) 20
 - b) 30
 - c) 40
 - d) 50
- 3) What was the name of the event?
 - a) Breakfast with Dads
 - b) Absent Fathers
 - c) Dallas Breakfast
 - d) Texas Fathers
- 4) How many events of this kind had there been before?
 - a) 5
 - b) 1
 - c) 0
 - d) 3
- 5) What per cent of children at the school came from low-income families?
 - a) exactly 90%
 - b) about 90%
 - c) just under 90%
 - d) just over 90%
- 6) What position did the school want to improve?
 - a) its academic position
 - b) its physical position
 - c) third
 - d) last
- 7) What did the school want to increase by implementing various projects?
 - a) its ranking
 - b) the number of students
 - c) test scores
 - d) the number of teachers
- 8) Who is Donald Parish Jr?
 - a) a local pastor
 - b) a student
 - c) an absent father
 - d) the school principal
- 9) What did Mr Parish say inspires children?
 - a) someone other than a teacher
 - b) singers
 - c) science
 - d) learning
- 10) What did a liaison officer say students made their way through?
 - a) lots of tests
 - b) school
 - c) life
 - d) a crowd of "Dads"

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180110-absent-fathers.html>

Role A – Hero

You think it is most important for a father to be a hero. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): disciplinarian, protector or teacher.

Role B – Disciplinarian

You think it is most important for a father to be a disciplinarian. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): hero, protector or teacher.

Role C – Protector

You think it is most important for a father to be a protector. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): disciplinarian, hero or teacher.

Role D – Teacher

You think it is most important for a father to be a teacher. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): disciplinarian, protector or hero.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180110-absent-fathers.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'absent' and 'father'.

absent	father

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• junior• city• replies• 600• 90• able	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• overall• mentors• some• young• success• crowd
---	--

FATHERS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180110-absent-fathers.html>

Write five GOOD questions about fathers in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

FATHERS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'absent'?
3. What have you been pleasantly surprised about?
4. Have you ever volunteered for anything?
5. What do you think of the 'Breakfast with Dads' idea?
6. How important is having breakfast with your family?
7. What is community spirit like where you live?
8. What problems do low-income families have?
9. What other things could the men volunteer for?
10. What happens to families without a father?

Nearly 600 volunteer to be absent father – 10th January, 2018
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FATHERS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'father'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How can schools improve their academic position?
15. Have you ever been a mentor for someone?
16. Would you be a good mentor?
17. How important is it for a teacher to take an interest in students?
18. How do you think the students felt about the event?
19. What is the most important duty of a father?
20. What questions would you like to ask the event organizers?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180110-absent-fathers.html>

A junior high school in Texas, USA was (1) _____ surprised after being swamped by volunteers to stand (2) _____ for absent fathers. Billy Earl Dade Middle School, in the city of Dallas, posted on Facebook (3) _____ for 50 male volunteers to substitute for absent fathers in an event called "Breakfast with Dads". Event organizers were inundated with replies. They said they were astounded (4) _____ nearly 600 men responded to the request and turned up at the event. The school's inaugural "Breakfast with Dads" event was to (5) _____ community spirit. Around 90 per cent of the children come from (6) _____-income families. Many of the students did not have a father who was able to participate in the event.

The school said the "Breakfast with Dads" event was part of an (7) _____ plan to improve its academic position. Community leaders, mentors and local organizations have combined to implement (8) _____ projects to increase test scores. There has been some academic improvement at the school as a (9) _____ of their efforts. A local pastor, the Reverend Donald Parish Jr, said: "When a young person sees someone (10) _____ than their teacher take interest in them, it inspires them." A school liaison officer, Ellyn Favors, commented (11) _____ the success of the event. She said: "The look of (12) _____, even disbelief, in students' eyes as they made their way through the crowd of "Dads" was astonishing."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) pleasantly | (b) pleasant | (c) pleasantry | (d) pleasing |
| 2. | (a) out | (b) down | (c) in | (d) over |
| 3. | (a) asks | (b) asked | (c) asking | (d) ask |
| 4. | (a) pursuit | (b) result | (c) follow | (d) after |
| 5. | (a) enhance | (b) encamp | (c) encase | (d) engulf |
| 6. | (a) cheap | (b) low | (c) small | (d) rough |
| 7. | (a) overly | (b) overalls | (c) over all | (d) overall |
| 8. | (a) variety | (b) various | (c) variously | (d) varieties |
| 9. | (a) effect | (b) grade | (c) result | (d) score |
| 10. | (a) other-worldly | (b) others | (c) another | (d) other |
| 11. | (a) to | (b) at | (c) by | (d) on |
| 12. | (a) ore | (b) awe | (c) or | (d) oar |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180110-absent-fathers.html>

Paragraph 1

1. laepnaylts surprised
2. mesawpd by volunteers
3. steutbsuit for absent fathers
4. They said they were teunsoadd
5. enhance iuonytcmm spirit
6. cpaptiriaet in the event

Paragraph 2

7. improve its dacmaice position
8. pemleimtn various projects
9. nrsetmo and local organizations
10. rpmeoteimvn at the school
11. A school niaiosl officer
12. The look of awe, even eieblsdfi

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180110-absent-fathers.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () volunteers to substitute for absent fathers in an event called "Breakfast with Dads". Event organizers were inundated
- () spirit. Around 90 per cent of the children come from low-income families. Many of the students did not
- (**1**) A junior high school in Texas, USA was pleasantly surprised after being swamped by volunteers to stand
- () The school said the "Breakfast with Dads" event was part of an overall plan to improve its academic
- () up at the event. The school's inaugural "Breakfast with Dads" event was to enhance community
- () with replies. They said they were astounded after nearly 600 men responded to the request and turned
- () interest in them, it inspires them." A school liaison officer, Ellyn Favors, commented
- () scores. There has been some academic improvement at the school as a result of their
- () position. Community leaders, mentors and local organizations have combined to implement various projects to increase test
- () their way through the crowd of "Dads" was astonishing."
- () have a father who was able to participate in the event.
- () in for absent fathers. Billy Earl Dade Middle School, in the city of Dallas, posted on Facebook asking for 50 male
- () on the success of the event. She said: "The look of awe, even disbelief, in students' eyes as they made
- () efforts. A local pastor, the Reverend Donald Parish Jr, said: "When a young person sees someone other than their teacher take

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180110-absent-fathers.html>

1. volunteers . Surprised by being after swamped
2. inundated replies . were organizers Event with
3. 600 to Nearly the responded men request .
4. come children families . low-income The from
5. participate . able was to father A who
6. position . improve to its plan overall An academic
7. academic some There has been improvement .
8. Someone than their take other teacher interest .
9. eyes . students' look in The of disbelief, even awe,
10. they the crowd . made their through As way

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180110-absent-fathers.html>

A junior high school in Texas, USA was *pleasant / pleasantly* surprised after being swamped by volunteers to stand *in / out* for absent fathers. Billy Earl Dade Middle School, in the city of Dallas, posted *on / in* Facebook asking for 50 male volunteers to *substitution / substitute* for absent fathers in an event called "Breakfast with Dads". Event organizers were *inundated / redundant* with replies. They said they were *astounded / stoned* after nearly 600 men responded to the request and *turned / tuned* up at the event. The school's inaugural "Breakfast with Dads" event was *for / to* enhance community spirit. Around 90 per cent of the children *come / go* from low-income families. Many of the students did not have a father who was able to participate *on / in* the event.

The school said the "Breakfast with Dads" event was *party / part* of an overall plan to improve its *academic / academically* position. Community leaders, *mentors / mental* and local organizations have combined to implement *variously / various* projects to increase test scores. There has been some academic improvement at the school as a *grade / result* of their efforts. A local *pastel / pastor*, the Reverend Donald Parish Jr, said: "When a young person sees someone *another / other* than their teacher *take / give* interest in them, it inspires them." A school liaison officer, Ellyn Favors, commented on the *succession / success* of the event. She said: "The look of awe, even disbelief, in students' eyes as they made their way through the crowd of "Dads" was *astonishing / astonish*."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180110-absent-fathers.html>

A j _ n _ _ r _ h _ g h _ s c h _ _ l _ _ n T _ x _ s , U S A w
_ s p l _ _ s _ n t l y s _ r p r _ s _ d _ f t _ r b _ _ n g s
w _ m p _ d b y v _ l _ n t _ _ r s t _ s t _ n d _ n f _ r
_ b s _ n t f _ t h _ r s . B _ l l y E _ r l D _ d _ M _ d d l
_ S c h _ _ l , _ n t h _ c _ t y _ f D _ l l _ s , p _ s t
_ d _ n F _ c _ b _ _ k _ s k _ n g f _ r 5 0 m _ l _ v _
l _ n t _ _ r s t _ s _ b s t _ t _ t _ f _ r _ b s _ n t f _ t
h _ r s _ n _ n _ v _ n t c _ l l _ d " B r _ _ k f _ s t w _
t h D _ d s " . E v _ n t _ r g _ n _ z _ r s w _ r _ _ n _ n
d _ t _ d w _ t h r _ p l _ _ s . T h _ y s _ _ d t h _ y w
_ r _ _ s t _ _ n d _ d _ f t _ r n _ _ r l y 6 0 0 m _ n r
_ s p _ n d _ d t _ t h _ r _ q _ _ s t _ n d t _ r n _ d _
p _ t t h _ _ v _ n t . T h _ s c h _ _ l ' s _ n _ _ g _ r _
l " B r _ _ k f _ s t w _ t h D _ d s " _ v _ n t w _ s t _
_ n h _ n c _ c _ m m _ n _ t y s p _ r _ t . A r _ _ n d 9 0
p _ r c _ n t _ f t h _ c h _ l d r _ n c _ m _ f r _ m l _
w - _ n c _ m _ f _ m _ l _ _ s . M _ n y _ f t h _ s t _ d _
n t s d _ d _ n _ t h _ v _ _ f _ t h _ r w h _ w _ s _ b
l _ t _ p _ r t _ c _ p _ t _ _ n t h _ _ v _ n t .

T h _ s c h _ _ l s _ _ d t h _ " B r _ _ k f _ s t w _ t h
D _ d s " _ v _ n t w _ s p _ r t _ f _ n _ v _ r _ l l p l
_ n t _ _ m p r _ v _ _ t s _ c _ d _ m _ c _ p _ s _ t _ _ n
. C _ m m _ n _ t y l _ _ d _ r s , m _ n t _ r s _ n d l _ c
_ l _ r g _ n _ z _ t _ _ n s h _ v _ c _ m b _ n _ d t _ _
m p l _ m _ n t v _ r _ _ _ s p r _ j _ c t s t _ _ n c r _ _ s
_ t _ s t _ s c _ r _ s . T h _ r _ h _ s b _ _ n s _ m _ _
c _ d _ m _ c _ m p r _ v _ m _ n t _ t t h _ s c h _ _ l _
s _ r _ s _ l t _ f t h _ _ r _ f f _ r t s . A l _ c _ l p
_ s t _ r , t h _ R _ v _ r _ n d D _ n _ l d P _ r _ s h J r
, s _ _ d : " W h _ n _ _ y _ _ n g p _ r s _ n s _ _ s s _
m _ _ n _ _ t h _ r t h _ n t h _ _ r t _ c h _ r t _ k _
_ n t _ r _ s t _ n t h _ m , _ t _ n s p _ r _ s t h _ m . "
A s c h _ _ l l _ _ _ s _ n _ f f _ c _ r , E l l y n F _ v _ r
s , c _ m m _ n t _ d _ n t h _ s _ c c _ s s _ f t h _ _
v _ n t . S h _ s _ _ d : " T h _ l _ _ k _ f _ w _ , _ v
_ n d _ s b _ l _ _ f , _ n s t _ d _ n t s ' _ y _ s _ s t h
_ y m _ d _ t h _ _ r w _ y t h r _ _ g h t h _ c r _ w d
_ f " D _ d s " w _ s _ s t _ n _ s h _ n g . "

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180110-absent-fathers.html>

a junior high school in texas usa was pleasantly surprised after being swamped by volunteers to stand in for absent fathers billy earl dade middle school in the city of dallas posted on facebook asking for 50 male volunteers to substitute for absent fathers in an event called breakfast with dads event organizers were inundated with replies they said they were astounded after nearly 600 men responded to the request and turned up at the event the schools inaugural breakfast with dads event was to enhance community spirit around 90 per cent of the children come from lowincome families many of the students did not have a father who was able to participate in the event

the school said the breakfast with dads event was part of an overall plan to improve its academic position community leaders mentors and local organizations have combined to implement various projects to increase test scores there has been some academic improvement at the school as a result of their efforts a local pastor the reverend donald parish jr said when a young person sees someone other than their teacher take interest in them it inspires them a school liaison officer ellyn favors commented on the success of the event she said the look of awe even disbelief in students eyes as they made their way through the crowd of dads was astonishing"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1801/180110-absent-fathers.html>

A junior high school in Texas, USA was pleasantly surprised after being swamped by volunteers to stand in for absent fathers. Billy Earl Dade Middle School, in the city of Dallas, posted on Facebook asking for 50 male volunteers to substitute for absent fathers in an event called "Breakfast with Dads". Event organizers were inundated with replies. They said they were astounded after nearly 600 men responded to the request and turned up at the event. The school's inaugural "Breakfast with Dads" event was to enhance community spirit. Around 90 percent of the children come from low-income families. Many of the students did not have a father who was able to participate in the event. The school said the "Breakfast with Dads" event was part of an overall plan to improve its academic position. Community leaders, mentors and local organizations have combined to implement various projects to increase test scores. There has been some academic improvement at the school as a result of their efforts. A local pastor, the reverend Donald Parish Jr, said: "When a young person sees someone other than their teacher take interest in them, it inspires them." A school liaison officer, Ellyn Favors, commented on the success of the event. She said: "The look of awe, even disbelief, in students' eyes as they made their way through the crowd of "Dads" was astonishing."

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. FATHERS: Make a poster about fathers. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. VOLUNTEER FATHERS: Write a magazine article about extending this idea of volunteer fathers. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on fathers. Ask him/her three questions about absentee fathers. Give him/her three of your ideas on how we can help children with no father. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c 2. a 3. g 4. b 5. e 6. d 7. f
8. k 9. l 10. n 11. i 12. j 13. m 14. h

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a F b T c F d T e T f F g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. swamped | a. flooded |
| 2. substitute | b. stand in |
| 3. astounded | c. amazed |
| 4. inaugural | d. first |
| 5. participate | e. take part |
| 6. overall | f. all-inclusive |
| 7. combined | g. joined |
| 8. efforts | h. endeavors |
| 9. awe | i. wonder |
| 10. astonishing | j. amazing |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. A junior high school
2. Fifty
3. Breakfast with Dads
4. None
5. Around 90 per cent
6. Its academic position
7. Test scores
8. A local pastor
9. Teachers taking an interest in them
10. A crowd of "Dads"

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b 2. d 3. a 4. c 5. b 6. a 7. c 8. a 9. a 10. d

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)