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**Level 4 – 23rd May, 2019**

## **Billionaire to pay off student debt for class of 2019**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist-4.html>

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**Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist-4.html>

Students in the USA got a huge surprise at a ceremony. They were listening to a speech at Morehouse College from the philanthropist Robert F. Smith. He told 400 students that he would pay their student loans, worth about \$40 million. He said: "This is my class, 2019, and my family is making a grant to eliminate their student loans." He added that he was paying the loans, "on behalf of the eight generations of my family who have been in this country".

Robert F. Smith, 56, graduated with an MBA with honors. He founded an investment company which manages over \$46 billion in assets. It made him a multi-billionaire. Mr Smith was the first African-American to sign the Giving Pledge. He promised to give at least half of his wealth away. A graduate who had his \$150,000 loan paid off said it would have an "immeasurable impact" on his life. He said: "Just imagine the weight lifted off your shoulders."

Sources: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/billionaire-philanthropist-shocks-morehouse-grads-promising-pay-off/story?id=63137376>  
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/who-is-morehouse-billionaire-robert-f-smith/>  
<https://atlantablackstar.com/2019/05/20/billionaire-investor-ceo-robert-smith-shocks-morehouse-graduates-with-promise-to-eliminate-their-student-loan-debt/>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Students in the USA got a huge | a. 400 students        |
| 2. They were listening            | b. paying the loans    |
| 3. He told                        | c. to a speech         |
| 4. he would pay                   | d. of my family        |
| 5. worth about                    | e. a grant             |
| 6. my family is making            | f. surprise            |
| 7. He added that he was           | g. \$40 million        |
| 8. eight generations              | h. their student loans |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                              |                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. graduated with an         | a. his wealth away    |
| 2. He founded an investment  | b. off your shoulders |
| 3. manages over \$46 billion | c. billionaire        |
| 4. It made him a multi-      | d. MBA with honors    |
| 5. give at least half of     | e. impact on his life |
| 6. had his \$150,000 loan    | f. company            |
| 7. have an immeasurable      | g. in assets          |
| 8. imagine the weight lifted | h. paid off           |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist-4.html>

Students in the USA got (1) \_\_\_\_\_ at a ceremony. They were listening (2) \_\_\_\_\_ at Morehouse College from the philanthropist Robert F. Smith. He told 400 students that (3) \_\_\_\_\_ their student loans, worth about \$40 million. He said: "This is my class, 2019, and my family is (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to eliminate their student loans." He added that he was (5) \_\_\_\_\_, "on behalf of the eight generations of my family who have (6) \_\_\_\_\_ country".

Robert F. Smith, 56, graduated with an (7) \_\_\_\_\_. He founded an investment company (8) \_\_\_\_\_ \$46 billion in assets. It made (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Mr Smith was the first African-American to sign the Giving Pledge. He promised to give (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of his wealth away. A graduate who had his \$150,000 (11) \_\_\_\_\_ said it would have an "immeasurable impact" on his life. He said: "Just imagine the (12) \_\_\_\_\_ your shoulders."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist-4.html>

Students in the USA got a huge surprise at a ceremony. They were listening to a speech at Morehouse College from the philanthropist Robert F. Smith. He told 400 students that he would pay their student loans, worth about \$40 million. He said: "This is my class, 2019, and my family is making a grant to eliminate their student loans." He added that he was paying the loans, "on behalf of the eight generations of my family who have been in this country". Robert F. Smith, 56, graduated with an MBA with honors. He founded an investment company which manages over \$46 billion in assets. It made him a multi-billionaire. Mr Smith was the first African-American to sign the Giving Pledge. He promised to give at least half of his wealth away. A graduate who had his \$150,000 loan paid off said it would have an "immeasurable impact" on his life. He said: "Just imagine the weight lifted off your shoulders."

# PHILANTHROPISTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about philanthropists 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.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_

# WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist-4.html>

Write about **philanthropists** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

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