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Level 2

U.N. 'very sorry' as Syria talks end in failure

18th February, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140218-syria-peace-talks-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26-page Level 3 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140218-syria-peace-talks-2.html>

Lakhdar Brahimi, the head of the Syrian peace talks, has apologised to the Syrian people. His job was to help the sides in Syria's civil war make peace. Syria's government and rebel leaders are trying to find a way to end the war. It is the second time they have talked. There are many difficult problems to discuss. Syrians want the two sides to reach a deal. They are tired of the fighting. More than 140,000 have died in the three-year war and three million need aid. Mr Brahimi said it was better that both sides go back to Syria and think about their responsibilities.

The two sides ended their discussions angry with each other. Mr Brahimi asked if they wanted the peace talks to continue. They did not set a date for more talks. The UK said the breakdown of the talks was very sad and "a serious setback in the search for peace". Syria's opposition leader blamed Syria's government. He said: "The regime is not serious....I'm very sorry to say there is nothing positive we can take from this." Syria's government blamed the opposition, saying they were "amateurs". Mr Brahimi is still hopeful. He said: "I very much hope there will be a third round."

Sources: <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2014/02/16/world/u-n-very-sorry-as-syria-talks-end-in-failure/>
<http://www.dawn.com/news/1087325/un-envoy-sorry-as-syria-talks-break-off-in-failure>
<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-1-233008-Syria-peace-talks-break-down-as-death-toll-passes-140,000>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140218-syria-peace-talks-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. the head of the Syrian | a. war make peace |
| 2. apologised | b. responsibilities |
| 3. help the sides in Syria's civil | c. to the Syrian people |
| 4. Syria's government and | d. to reach a deal |
| 5. the second time they | e. rebel leaders |
| 6. There are many difficult | f. peace talks |
| 7. Syrians want the two sides | g. problems to discuss |
| 8. think about their | h. have talked |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. The two sides ended their discussions | a. peace talks to continue |
| 2. Brahimi asked if they wanted the | b. be a third round |
| 3. They did not set a date | c. search for peace |
| 4. the breakdown of the talks | d. can take from this |
| 5. a serious setback in the | e. for more talks |
| 6. there is nothing positive we | f. angry |
| 7. Syria's government blamed | g. was very sad |
| 8. I very much hope there will | h. the opposition |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140218-syria-peace-talks-2.html>

Lakhdar Brahimi, (1) _____ Syrian peace talks, has apologised to the Syrian people. His (2) _____ the sides in Syria's civil war make peace. Syria's government and rebel leaders are trying (3) _____ end the war. It is the second time they have talked. There are many difficult problems to discuss. Syrians want the two sides (4) _____. They are tired of the fighting. More than 140,000 have died in the three-year war and (5) _____. Mr Brahimi said it was better that (6) _____ to Syria and think about their responsibilities.

The two sides ended their (7) _____ each other. Mr Brahimi asked if they wanted the peace talks to continue. They did not (8) _____ talks. The UK said the breakdown of the talks was very sad and "(9) _____ the search for peace". Syria's opposition leader blamed Syria's government. He said: "The regime (10) _____I'm very sorry to say there is (11) _____ can take from this." Syria's government blamed the opposition, saying they were "amateurs". Mr Brahimi is still hopeful. He said: "I (12) _____ there will be a third round."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140218-syria-peace-talks-2.html>

Lakhdar Brahimi, the head of the Syrian peace talks, has apologised to the Syrian people. His job was to help the sides in Syria's civil war make peace. Syria's government and rebel leaders are trying to find a way to end the war. It is the second time they have talked. There are many difficult problems to discuss. Syrians want the two sides to reach a deal. They are tired of the fighting. More than 140,000 have died in the three-year war and three million need aid. Mr Brahimi said it was better that both sides go back to Syria and think about their responsibilities. The two sides ended their discussions angry with each other. Mr Brahimi asked if they wanted the peace talks to continue. They did not set a date for more talks. The UK said the breakdown of the talks was very sad and "a serious setback in the search for peace". Syria's opposition leader blamed Syria's government. He said: "The regime is not serious.... I'm very sorry to say there is nothing positive we can take from this." Syria's government blamed the opposition, saying they were "amateurs". Mr Brahimi is still hopeful. He said: "I very much hope there will be a third round."

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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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)

g)

h)
