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**Level 3 – 12th December 2024**

## Millions of Syrian refugees ready to go home

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241212-syrian-refugees.html>

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**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241212-syrian-refugees.html>

Millions of Syrian refugees could soon go home. They are waiting to see what happens in Syria following the fall of the country's former president Bashar al-Assad. He ruled Syria with an iron fist for 24 years. After rebels took control of parts of Syria on the 6th of December, thousands of refugees in Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt started returning to their hometowns. The United Nations believes there are close to 5 million refugees in countries that border Syria. Of these, two million are school-aged children. An additional 1.3 million refugees are living in other countries, mostly in Europe. Turkey's president said: "As Syria gains more stability, God willing, voluntary, safe...returns will increase."

Many of the returning refugees have spoken to journalists. Muhammed Zin, 28, told the Associated Press news agency: "Assad was shooting us, killing us. I will return to Syria now. Thank God, the war is over." He fled the capital Damascus in 2016, five years after Syria's civil war broke out in 2011. Another returnee, Malak Matar, told reporters: "This is a feeling we've been waiting 14 years for. We feel psychologically free, we can express ourselves. The country is free, and the barriers have been broken down." He was hopeful for the future. He added: "Syrians have to create a country that is well organized and takes care of its people. It's a new phase."

Sources: <https://apnews.com/article/turkey-syrian-refugees-return-border-crossing-b0559be5103a7ef505e7206477f9db04>  
<https://www.timesofisrael.com/hundreds-of-syrian-refugees-start-returning-from-turkey-lebanon-after-assads-fall/>  
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14171809/thousands-Syrians-home-end-civil-war-Families-reunited.html>

# WARM-UPS

**1. REFUGEES:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about refugees. 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?

refugees / waiting / president / an iron fist / control / hometown / border / safe /  
journalists / news agency / war / capital / feeling / express ourselves / hopeful / care

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

**3. PEACE:** Students A **strongly** believe there will be peace in the Middle East soon; Students B **strongly** believe this will not happen. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. THE MIDDLE EAST:** What do you know about these countries? What do you want to know? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What I Know	What I Want to Know
Syria		
Jordan		
Lebanon		
Iraq		
Iran		
Egypt		

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

**6. REBUILDING:** Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things to rebuild a country at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Schools
- Airports
- Internet
- Water supply
- Roads
- Hospitals
- Police force
- Newspapers

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 1. refugee       | a. A way of controlling people, in a very strict and often violent way.            |
| 2. former        | b. A person who leaves their country because it is not safe to live there anymore. |
| 3. an iron fist  | c. People who fight against the government or leaders because they want change.    |
| 4. rebels (noun) | d. To be at / touch the edge of another place or country.                          |
| 5. border (verb) | e. Something or someone that was in the past but not now.                          |
| 6. stability     | f. Something you choose to do and are not forced to do.                            |
| 7. voluntary     | g. When something is calm, steady, and not changing.                               |

## Paragraph 2

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 8. journalist       | h. The past of "flee," meaning to run away from danger.                     |
| 9. fled             | i. To say or show what you think or feel.                                   |
| 10. civil war       | j. A person who writes or talks about news for a newspaper, TV, or website. |
| 11. psychologically | k. A war between people from the same country.                              |
| 12. express         | l. Things that stop you from going somewhere or doing something.            |
| 13. barriers        | m. About our mind and our feelings.   |
| 14. phase           | n. A period of time in which something happens or changes.                  |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241212-syrian-refugees.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. Two million Syrian refugees have gone home this week. **T / F**
2. Bashar al-Assad controlled Syria for 34 years. **T / F**
3. The U.N. thinks there are over six million Syrian refugees. **T / F**
4. Most of Syria's refugees are living in Europe. **T / F**
5. Refugees are refusing to talk to journalists. **T / F**
6. A refugee called Muhammed fled Syria in 2016. **T / F**
7. A civil war started in Syria more than 14 years ago. **T / F**
8. A refugee said Syria has started a new phase in its history. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <b>refugee</b>     | a. going back       |
| 2. <b>former</b>      | b. started          |
| 3. <b>returning</b>   | c. ex               |
| 4. <b>border</b>      | d. escaped          |
| 5. <b>safe</b>        | e. reporters        |
| 6. <b>journalists</b> | f. obstacles        |
| 7. <b>fled</b>        | g. displaced person |
| 8. <b>broke out</b>   | h. stage            |
| 9. <b>barriers</b>    | i. secure           |
| 10. <b>phase</b>      | j. neighbour        |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Millions of Syrian refugees could   | a. former president          |
| 2. following the fall of the country's | b. broken down               |
| 3. After rebels took                   | c. that border Syria         |
| 4. 5 million refugees in countries     | d. broke out in 2011         |
| 5. two million are school-             | e. control of parts of Syria |
| 6. He fled the                         | f. phase                     |
| 7. Syria's civil war                   | g. soon go home              |
| 8. barriers have been                  | h. for the future            |
| 9. He was hopeful                      | i. capital Damascus in 2016  |
| 10. It's a new                         | j. aged children             |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241212-syrian-refugees.html>

Millions of Syrian refugees could (1) \_\_\_\_\_ go home. They are waiting to see what happens in Syria following the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of the country's former president Bashar al-Assad. He ruled Syria with an iron (3) \_\_\_\_\_ for 24 years. After rebels took control of parts of Syria on the 6th of December, (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of refugees in Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt started returning to their hometowns. The United Nations believes there are (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to 5 million refugees in countries that border Syria. Of these, two million are school-aged children. An (6) \_\_\_\_\_ 1.3 million refugees are living in other countries, (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in Europe. Turkey's president said: "As Syria gains more stability, God willing, voluntary, (8) \_\_\_\_\_ ...returns will increase."

*additional*  
*fist*  
*safe*  
*soon*  
*mostly*  
*fall*  
*close*  
*thousands*

Many of the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ refugees have spoken to journalists. Muhammed Zin, 28, told the Associated Press news agency: "Assad was (10) \_\_\_\_\_ us, killing us. I will return to Syria now. Thank God, the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ is over." He fled the capital Damascus in 2016, five years after Syria's (12) \_\_\_\_\_ war broke out in 2011. Another returnee, Malak Matar, told reporters: "This is a (13) \_\_\_\_\_ we've been waiting 14 years for. We feel psychologically free, we can express ourselves. The country is free, and the (14) \_\_\_\_\_ have been broken down." He was hopeful for the (15) \_\_\_\_\_. He added: "Syrians have to create a country that is well organized and takes care of its people. It's a new (16) \_\_\_\_\_."

*civil*  
*returning*  
*feeling*  
*shooting*  
*war*  
*phase*  
*barriers*  
*future*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241212-syrian-refugees.html>

- 1) waiting to see what happens in Syria following the fall of the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. country's former precedent
  - b. country's former appears dent
  - c. country's former press identity
  - d. country's former president
- 2) He ruled Syria with \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. an iron fast
  - b. an iron fist
  - c. an iron first
  - d. an iron fits
- 3) there are close to 5 million refugees in countries \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. that bordering Syria
  - b. what border Syria
  - c. there border Syria
  - d. that border Syria
- 4) An additional 1.3 million refugees are living in other countries, \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. mostly in Europe
  - b. mostly on Europe
  - c. mostly ying Europe
  - d. most laying Europe
- 5) God willing, voluntary, safe... \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. returns will decrease
  - b. returns will in crease
  - c. returns will on crease
  - d. returns will increase
- 6) Many of the returning refugees have \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. speaking to journalists
  - b. spoke to journalists
  - c. spoke in to journalists
  - d. spoken to journalists
- 7) Muhammed Zin, 28, told the Associated \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Press new agency
  - b. Pressed news agency
  - c. Press news agency
  - d. Dress news agency
- 8) I will return to Syria now. Thank God, the war is over. He \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. bled the capital
  - b. fled the capital
  - c. fed the capital
  - d. flied the capital
- 9) The country is free, and the barriers have \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. been broken down
  - b. being broken down
  - c. bin broken down
  - d. bean broken down
- 10) create a country that is well organized and takes care of its people. It's \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a new phrase
  - b. a new faze
  - c. a new fate
  - d. a new phase

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241212-syrian-refugees.html>

Millions of Syrian refugees (1) \_\_\_\_\_ home. They are waiting to see what happens in Syria (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of the country's former president Bashar al-Assad. He ruled Syria with an iron fist for 24 years. After (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of parts of Syria on the 6th of December, (4) \_\_\_\_\_ in Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt started returning to their hometowns. The United Nations believes there are close to 5 million refugees in (5) \_\_\_\_\_ Syria. Of these, two million are school-aged children. An additional 1.3 million refugees are living in other countries, mostly in Europe. Turkey's president said: "As Syria (6) \_\_\_\_\_, God willing, voluntary, safe...returns will increase."

Many (7) \_\_\_\_\_ refugees have spoken to journalists. Muhammed Zin, 28, told the Associated Press news agency: "Assad was shooting us, killing us. I will return to Syria now. Thank God, the (8) \_\_\_\_\_." He fled the capital Damascus in 2016, five years after Syria's (9) \_\_\_\_\_ out in 2011. Another returnee, Malak Matar, told reporters: "This is a feeling we've been waiting 14 years for. We feel psychologically free, we (10) \_\_\_\_\_. The country is free, and the barriers have been broken down." He (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the future. He added: "Syrians have to create a country that is well organized and takes care of its people. It's (12) \_\_\_\_\_."



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241212-syrian-refugees.html>

1. What are millions of Syrian refugees waiting to see?
2. For how long was Bashar al-Assad leader of Syria?
3. Who took control of parts of Syria?
4. How many Syrian refugees are in countries that neighbour Syria?
5. What does Turkey's president hope will increase?
6. Who did Muhammed Zin talk to?
7. When did Muhammed Zin flee Syria's capital city?
8. What started in 2011?
9. What did a refugee called Malak Matar say had broken down?
10. What is Malak Matar hopeful for?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241212-syrian-refugees.html>

- 1) What are millions of Syrian refugees waiting to see?
  - a) their house
  - b) What happens in Syria
  - c) the destruction
  - d) the Syrian border
- 2) For how long was Bashar al-Assad leader of Syria?
  - a) 27 years
  - b) 26 years
  - c) 25 years
  - d) 24 years
- 3) Who took control of parts of Syria?
  - a) soldiers
  - b) the U.N.
  - c) rebels
  - d) U.S. soldiers
- 4) How many Syrian refugees are in countries that neighbour Syria?
  - a) nearly five million
  - b) over five million
  - c) exactly five million
  - d) around five million
- 5) What does Turkey's president hope will increase?
  - a) hope
  - b) returns
  - c) the army
  - d) U.N. peace keepers
- 6) Who did Muhammed Zin talk to?
  - a) the Associated Press (journalists)
  - b) the BBC
  - c) Bashar al-Assad
  - d) his family
- 7) When did Muhammed Zin flee Syria's capital city?
  - a) in 2014
  - b) in 2015
  - c) in 2016
  - d) in 2018
- 8) What started in 2011?
  - a) the Syrian Civil War
  - b) the Syrian Arab Army
  - c) the Iraq War
  - d) an epidemic
- 9) What did a refugee called Malak Matar say had broken down?
  - a) the rule of law
  - b) his car
  - c) society
  - d) barriers
- 10) What is Malak Matar hopeful for?
  - a) a new job
  - b) peace
  - c) the future
  - d) a new house

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241212-syrian-refugees.html>

## **Role A – Schools**

You think schools is the most important things a country needs after war. 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): the Internet, a police force or roads.

## **Role B – Internet**

You think the Internet is the most important thing a country needs after war. 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): schools, a police force or roads.

## **Role C – Police Force**

You think a police force is the most important thing a country needs after war. 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): the Internet, schools or roads.

## **Role D – Roads**

You think roads are the most important things a country needs after war. 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): the Internet, a police force or schools.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241212-syrian-refugees.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'refugee' and 'home'.

refugee	home

- 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"><li>• soon</li><li>• fist</li><li>• thousands</li><li>• close</li><li>• mostly</li><li>• safe</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• spoken</li><li>• shooting</li><li>• five</li><li>• 14</li><li>• barriers</li><li>• care</li></ul>
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# REFUGEES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241212-syrian-refugees.html>

Write five GOOD questions about refugees 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.

# REFUGEES 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 'refugee'?
3. What do you know about Syria?
4. What do you know about the Syrian refugees?
5. What news have you heard about Syria?
6. What do you know about Bashar al-Assad?
7. How do you feel about the fall of Bashar al-Assad?
8. Why are there so many Syrian refugees?
9. What can you do to help the Syrian refugees?
10. What advice do you have for the Syrian refugees?

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# REFUGEES 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 'home'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How would you feel if you had to flee your home?
15. How would you feel if your country was at war?
16. Has your country ever had a civil war?
17. How free are you in your country?
18. How hopeful are you for the future?
19. What do you think Syria will look like in a year from now?
20. What questions would you like to ask the rebel leader?

# 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/2412/241212-syrian-refugees.html>

Millions of Syrian refugees could (1) \_\_\_\_\_ go home. They are waiting to see what happens in Syria following the fall of the country's (2) \_\_\_\_\_ president Bashar al-Assad. He ruled Syria with an iron (3) \_\_\_\_\_ for 24 years. After rebels took control of parts of Syria on the 6th of December, thousands of refugees in Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt started returning to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ hometowns. The United Nations believes there are close to 5 million refugees in countries (5) \_\_\_\_\_ border Syria. Of these, two million are school-aged children. An additional 1.3 million refugees are living in other countries, mostly in Europe. Turkey's president said: "As Syria gains more (6) \_\_\_\_\_, God willing, voluntary, safe...returns will increase."

Many of the returning refugees have (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to journalists. Muhammed Zin, 28, told the Associated Press news agency: "Assad was shooting us, killing us. I will return to Syria now. Thank God, the war is (8) \_\_\_\_\_." He fled the capital Damascus in 2016, five years after Syria's civil war broke out in 2011. Another returnee, Malak Matar, told reporters: "This is a feeling we've been (9) \_\_\_\_\_ 14 years for. We feel psychologically free, we can (10) \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves. The country is free, and the barriers have been broken (11) \_\_\_\_\_." He was hopeful for the future. He added: "Syrians have to create a country that is well organized and takes care of its people. It's a new (12) \_\_\_\_\_."

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

- |     |               |             |             |             |
|-----|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1.  | (a) quick     | (b) once    | (c) last    | (d) soon    |
| 2.  | (a) firmer    | (b) farmer  | (c) framer  | (d) former  |
| 3.  | (a) palm      | (b) fist    | (c) finger  | (d) thumb   |
| 4.  | (a) they      | (b) them    | (c) their   | (d) there   |
| 5.  | (a) that      | (b) what    | (c) this    | (d) there   |
| 6.  | (a) stability | (b) stable  | (c) stables | (d) stabs   |
| 7.  | (a) voiced    | (b) talk    | (c) speech  | (d) spoken  |
| 8.  | (a) over      | (b) end     | (c) finish  | (d) up      |
| 9.  | (a) hope      | (b) waiting | (c) end     | (d) happy   |
| 10. | (a) repress   | (b) press   | (c) express | (d) impress |
| 11. | (a) below     | (b) less    | (c) down    | (d) in      |
| 12. | (a) phrase    | (b) phase   | (c) phaser  | (d) phased  |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241212-syrian-refugees.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. the country's frermo president
2. He ruled Syria with an inor fist
3. blseer took control of parts of Syria
4. An noidadtial 1.3 million refugees
5. As Syria gains more aitislty
6. tnauyvotr, safe...returns

## Paragraph 2

7. refugees have spoken to otulanjsir
8. He fled the aapiclt Damascus
9. Syria's ivicl war broke out in 2011
10. we can pseresx ourselves
11. the brrsirae have been broken down
12. It's a new hsepa

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241212-syrian-refugees.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) fist for 24 years. After rebels took control of parts of Syria on the 6th of December, thousands of
- ( ) Many of the returning refugees have spoken to journalists. Muhammed Zin, 28, told the Associated Press news
- ( ) agency: "Assad was shooting us, killing us. I will return to Syria now. Thank God, the war
- ( ) been broken down." He was hopeful for the future. He added: "Syrians have
- ( ) are close to 5 million refugees in countries that border Syria. Of these, two million are school-
- ( ) is over." He fled the capital Damascus in 2016, five years after Syria's civil war broke
- ( ) of the country's former president Bashar al-Assad. He ruled Syria with an iron
- ( ) 14 years for. We feel psychologically free, we can express ourselves. The country is free, and the barriers have
- ( ) aged children. An additional 1.3 million refugees are living in other countries, mostly in Europe. Turkey's
- ( **1** ) Millions of Syrian refugees could soon go home. They are waiting to see what happens in Syria following the fall
- ( ) out in 2011. Another returnee, Malak Matar, told reporters: "This is a feeling we've been waiting
- ( ) president said: "As Syria gains more stability, God willing, voluntary, safe...returns will increase."
- ( ) to create a country that is well organized and takes care of its people. It's a new phase."
- ( ) refugees in Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt started returning to their hometowns. The United Nations believes there

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241212-syrian-refugees.html>

1. of Millions refugees go Syrian could home . soon
2. They're happens Syria . to in see waiting what
3. He iron fist . Syria ruled an with
4. took After of control parts rebels of Syria .
5. these, million Of two children . are school-aged
6. spoken have refugees Many the journalists . of to
7. after broke Five years Syria's war out . civil
8. been feeling is waiting for . a we've This
9. in barriers been Syria have The down . broken
10. is Create country organized . a well that

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241212-syrian-refugees.html>

Millions of Syrian refugees could soon *going / go* home. They are waiting to see what happens in Syria following the *drop / fall* of the country's former president Bashar al-Assad. He ruled Syria with an *iron / steel* fist for 24 years. After rebels *took / gave* control of parts of Syria on the 6th of December, thousands of refugees *at / in* Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt started returning to *their / them* hometowns. The United Nations believes there are close to 5 million refugees in countries that *border / bordering* Syria. Of these, two million are school-aged children. An *addition / additional* 1.3 million refugees are living in other countries, mostly *on / in* Europe. Turkey's president said: "As Syria gains more stability, God willing, voluntary, *safety / safe*...returns will increase."

Many of the returning refugees have *speaking / spoken* to journalists. Muhammed Zin, 28, told the Associated Press news agency: "Assad was *shooting / shoot* us, killing us. I will return to Syria now. Thank God, the war is *end / over*." He *fled / flees* the capital Damascus in 2016, five years after Syria's civil war broke *up / out* in 2011. Another returnee, Malak Matar, told reporters: "This is a feeling we've *being / been* waiting 14 years for. We feel psychologically *free / freedom*, we can express ourselves. The country is free, and the barriers have been broken *away / down*." He was hopeful for the future. He added: "Syrians have to create a country *what / that* is well organized and takes care of its people. It's a new *phase / phrase*."

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.**

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

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241212-syrian-refugees.html>

M\_\_ll\_\_ns \_f Syr\_\_n r\_f\_g\_\_s c\_\_ld s\_\_n g\_ h\_m\_. Th\_y  
\_r\_ w\_\_t\_ng t\_ s\_\_ wh\_t h\_pp\_ns \_n Syr\_\_ f\_ll\_w\_ng  
th\_ f\_ll \_f th\_ c\_\_ntry's f\_rm\_r pr\_s\_d\_nt B\_sh\_r \_l-  
\_ss\_d. H\_ r\_l\_d Syr\_\_ w\_th \_n \_r\_n f\_st f\_r 24  
y\_\_rs. \_ft\_r r\_b\_ls t\_\_k c\_ntr\_l \_f p\_rts \_f Syr\_\_ \_n  
th\_ 6th \_f D\_c\_mb\_r, th\_\_s\_nds \_f r\_f\_g\_\_s \_n T\_rk\_y,  
J\_rd\_n, L\_b\_n\_n, \_r\_q \_nd \_gypt st\_rt\_d r\_t\_rn\_ng t\_  
th\_r h\_m\_t\_wns. Th\_ \_n\_t\_d N\_t\_\_ns b\_l\_\_v\_s th\_r\_  
\_r\_ cl\_s\_ t\_ 5 m\_ll\_\_n r\_f\_g\_\_s \_n c\_\_ntr\_\_s th\_t  
b\_rdr Syr\_\_. \_f th\_s\_, tw\_ m\_ll\_\_n \_r\_ sch\_\_l\_g\_d  
ch\_ldr\_n. \_n \_dd\_t\_\_n\_l 1.3 m\_ll\_\_n r\_f\_g\_\_s \_r\_  
l\_v\_ng \_n \_th\_r c\_\_ntr\_\_s, m\_stly \_n \_\_r\_p\_. T\_rk\_y's  
pr\_s\_d\_nt s\_\_d: "\_s Syr\_\_ g\_\_ns m\_r\_ st\_b\_l\_t\_y, G\_d  
w\_ll\_ng, v\_l\_nt\_ry, s\_f\_\_r\_t\_rns w\_ll \_ncr\_\_s\_."

M\_ny \_f th\_ r\_t\_rn\_ng r\_f\_g\_\_s h\_v\_ sp\_k\_n t\_  
j\_\_rn\_l\_sts. M\_h\_mm\_d Z\_n, 28, t\_ld th\_ \_ss\_c\_\_t\_d  
Pr\_ss\_n\_ws \_g\_ncy: "\_ss\_d w\_s sh\_\_t\_ng \_s, k\_ll\_ng  
\_s. \_ w\_ll r\_t\_rn t\_ Syr\_\_ n\_w. Th\_nk G\_d, th\_ w\_r  
\_s \_v\_r." H\_ fl\_d th\_ c\_p\_t\_l D\_m\_sc\_s \_n 2016, f\_v\_  
y\_\_rs \_ft\_r Syr\_\_'s c\_v\_l w\_r br\_k\_ \_\_t \_n 2011.  
\_n\_th\_r r\_t\_rn\_\_, M\_l\_k M\_t\_r, t\_ld r\_p\_rts: "Th\_s \_s  
\_ f\_\_l\_ng w\_'v\_ b\_\_n w\_\_t\_ng 14 y\_\_rs f\_r. W\_ f\_\_l  
psych\_l\_g\_c\_lly fr\_\_, w\_ c\_n \_xpr\_ss \_\_rs\_lv\_s. Th\_  
c\_\_ntry \_s fr\_\_, \_nd th\_ b\_rr\_rs h\_v\_ b\_\_n br\_k\_n  
d\_wn." H\_ w\_s h\_p\_f\_l f\_r th\_ f\_t\_r. H\_ \_dd\_d:  
"Syr\_\_ns h\_v\_ t\_ cr\_\_t\_ \_ c\_\_ntry th\_t \_s w\_ll  
\_rg\_n\_z\_d \_nd t\_k\_s c\_r\_ \_f \_ts p\_\_pl\_. \_t's \_ n\_w  
ph\_s\_."

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241212-syrian-refugees.html>

millions of syrian refugees could soon go home they are waiting to see what happens in syria following the fall of the countrys former president bashar al Assad he ruled syria with an iron fist for 24 years after rebels took control of parts of syria on the 6th of december thousands of refugees in turkey jordan lebanon iraq and egypt started returning to their hometowns the united nations believes there are close to 5 million refugees in countries that border syria of these two million are schoolaged children an additional 13 million refugees are living in other countries mostly in europe turkeys president said as syria gains more stability god willing voluntary safereturns will increase

many of the returning refugees have spoken to journalists muhammed zin 28 told the associated press news agency Assad was shooting us killing us i will return to syria now thank god the war is over he fled the capital damascus in 2016 five years after syrias civil war broke out in 2011 another returnee malak matar told reporters this is a feeling weve been waiting 14 years for we feel psychologically free we can express ourselves the country is free and the barriers have been broken down he was hopeful for the future he added syrians have to create a country that is well organized and takes care of its people its a new phase

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241212-syrian-refugees.html>

Millions of Syrian refugees could soon go home. They are waiting to see what happens in Syria following the fall of the country's former president Bashar al-Assad. He ruled Syria with an iron fist for 24 years. After rebel forces took control of parts of Syria on the 6th of December, thousands of refugees in Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt started returning to their hometowns. The United Nations believe there are close to 5 million refugees in countries that border Syria. Of these, two million are school-aged children. An additional 1.3 million refugees are living in other countries, mostly in Europe. Turkey's president said: "As Syria gains more stability, God willing, voluntary, safe... returns will increase." Many of the returning refugees have spoken to journalists. Muhammed Zin, 28, told the Associated Press news agency: "Assad was shooting us, killing us. I will return to Syria now. Thank God, the war is over." He fled the capital Damascus in 2016, five years after Syria's civil war broke out in 2011. Another returnee, Malak Matar, told reporters: "This is a feeling we've been waiting 14 years for. We feel psychologically free, we can express ourselves. The country is free, and the barriers have been broken down." He was hopeful for the future. He added: "Syrians have to create a country that is well organized and takes care of its people. It's a new phase."







# 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. REFUGEES:** Make a poster about refugees. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. PEACE:** Write a magazine article about the U.N. helping to create a peaceful Syria. 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 refugees. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to help the refugees. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F    2 F    3 T    4 F    5 F    6 T    7 F    8 T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. g	2. c	3. a	4. j	5. i
6. e	7. d	8. b	9. f	10. h

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. What happens in Syria
2. Twenty-four years
3. Rebels
4. Nearly five million
5. Returns
6. The Associated Press (journalists)
7. In 2016
8. The Syrian Civil War
9. Barriers
10. The future

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Millions of Syrian refugees could soon go home.
2. They're waiting to see what happens in Syria.
3. He ruled Syria with an iron fist.
4. After rebels took control of parts of Syria.
5. Of these, two million are school-aged children.
6. Many of the refugees have spoken to journalists.
7. Five years after Syria's civil war broke out.
8. This is a feeling we've been waiting for.
9. The barriers in Syria have been broken down.
10. Create a country that is well organized.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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