

# www.newsflashenglish.com

The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 25/04/15

## More migrant boats sink or capsize in Mediterranean

A huge crisis is unfolding in the Mediterranean Sea as more and more migrants head towards Europe from Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Many migrants are coming from countries like Syria, Somalia and Eritrea, which are all war zones. All want to cross the Mediterranean to Italy and Greece in order to gain entry into Europe and a new life in the European Union. Every day hundreds continue to try their luck from the shores of Tunisia and Libya. Many migrants cross in boats that often fail to make it, resulting in many people drowning.

Libya is now a mecca for people smugglers. The lawless country is at war with itself following the removal of Colonel Gaddafi by the European Superpowers. The ongoing tribal fighting has split the country into two. The people smugglers there are making huge amounts of money sending people over to Europe. Many migrants are desperate to get to Europe for the better life. A lot of these people have escaped regimes where they might have been killed, so crossing the Mediterranean is a risk worth taking. But is it? Recently the news has been full of horror stories of boats sinking or capsizing. A captain of a capsized boat that killed 800 migrants was recently charged with reckless multiple homicide.

The EU funded Mediterranean Rescue Service 'Triton' has replaced the previous and larger Italian run 'Mare Nostrum' rescue service, which was costing the Italians too much to run. However, is it the EU's job to rescue illegal immigrants trying to get into Europe? Should the EU simply ignore the current tide of migrants and let them all drown? Malta and Italy are seeking urgent solutions to the migrant crisis that many EU States have simply chosen to ignore.

### SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about *people smuggling*. Go round the room swapping details with others.

### LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

### READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

### SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

**1) The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

**2) The article** - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

**3) Article quiz** - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

#### Student A questions

- 1) Where is the Mediterranean?
- 2) Where are Syria, Somalia and Eritrea?
- 3) Where is Libya and Tunisia?
- 4) What does 'people smuggler' mean?
- 5) Where is now a mecca and for whom?

#### Student B questions

- 1) Name the EU Mediterranean Rescue Service.
- 2) How many migrants were killed recently?
- 3) Who was Colonel Gaddafi?
- 4) Where are the migrants heading? Why?
- 5) What is the EU doing about the migrants who cross the Mediterranean?

**Category: Mediterranean Crisis / Migrants / People Smugglers**

**Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

## More migrant boats sink in Mediterranean – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Mediterranean migrants**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* – Think of three solutions to end people trafficking in the Mediterranean. Write them below. Talk about them!

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* – Write 50 words about your journey to Europe as a migrant.

*The teacher* will choose some pairs to discuss their stories in front of the class.

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 3

*Student A* is a reporter in Libya. *Student B* is a people trafficker. 2 mins.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Should the EU simply ignore the current tide of migrants and let them all drown?
- 3) Should more merchant ships help in the rescue of migrants?
- 4) Who are the people smugglers?
- 5) Why is Libya the springboard for migrants?
- 6) What are the main migrant routes into Europe?
- 7) What other places in the world do migrants try to reach? Why?
- 8) Would you pay €2,200 for a place on a boat across the Mediterranean?
- 9) Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott recently said '*Get tough and stop the boats*' like Australia does. Do you agree? Explain!
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the English language studio at *Rome FM* in Rome. Today's interview is about: *More migrant boats sink or capsize in Mediterranean.*

- 1) A spokesperson for the EU.
- 2) The Italian Prime minister.
- 3) A migrant who made it to Rome.
- 4) A migrant boat rescuer in the Mediterranean.

*The teacher* will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 2

*Student A* is a reporter in Malta. Describe the refugee centre, the migrants you have met, etc. *Student B* is a migrant. Tell your story to the reporter. 3-5 mins.

### SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following... More migrant boats sink or capsize in Mediterranean – or / and - Should Europe shut its doors to migrants?

*The teacher* can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Why should the EU help illegal immigrants enter Europe when it should be helping its own people first?
- 3) Who are these migrants and where do they go?
- 4) Who are the migrants fleeing from?
- 5) Why do migrants risk their lives?
- 6) Would your country take 50,000 migrants from Africa and the Middle East tomorrow? Yes/No? Explain!
- 7) Why doesn't the EU destroy the migrant's boats once they have been rescued? (see page 4\*\*\*)
- 8) Can the EU agree on a response to the migrant crisis?
- 9) Have the EU shot themselves in the foot by removing Colonel Gaddafi and not replacing him with a stable government?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

**GAP FILL: READING**

**More migrant boats sink or capsize in Mediterranean**

A huge (1)\_\_\_ is unfolding in the (2)\_\_\_ Sea as more and more migrants head towards Europe from Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Many migrants are coming from countries like Syria, Somalia and Eritrea, which are all war zones. All want to cross the Mediterranean to Italy and Greece in order to (3)\_\_\_ entry into Europe and a new life in the European Union. Every day hundreds continue to try their luck from the shores of Tunisia and Libya. Many (4)\_\_\_ cross in boats that often fail to make it, resulting in many people drowning.

Libya is now a (5)\_\_\_ for people (6)\_\_\_. The (7)\_\_\_ country is at war with itself following the removal of Colonel Gaddafi by the European Superpowers. The ongoing tribal fighting has (8)\_\_\_ the country into two. The people smugglers there are making huge amounts of money sending people over to Europe.

***lawless / smugglers / split / migrants / crisis / gain / mecca / Mediterranean***

Many migrants are desperate to get to Europe for the better life. A lot of these people have escaped regimes where they might have been killed, so crossing the Mediterranean is a (1)\_\_\_ worth taking. But is it? Recently the news has been full of (2)\_\_\_ stories of boats sinking or capsizing. A (3)\_\_\_ of a capsized boat that killed 800 migrants was recently charged with (4)\_\_\_ multiple homicide.

The EU funded Mediterranean Rescue Service 'Triton' has replaced the (5)\_\_\_ and larger Italian run 'Mare Nostrum' rescue service, which was costing the Italians too much to run. However, is it the EU's job to rescue illegal immigrants trying to get into Europe? Should the EU (6)\_\_\_ ignore the current tide of migrants and let them all drown? Malta and Italy are seeking urgent (7)\_\_\_ to the migrant crisis that many EU States have simply chosen to (8)\_\_\_.

***Ignore / simply / horror / previous / captain / solutions / risk / reckless***

**GAP FILL: GRAMMAR**

**More migrant boats sink or capsize in Mediterranean**

(1)\_\_\_ huge crisis is unfolding in the Mediterranean Sea as more and more migrants head towards Europe from Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Many migrants are coming from countries like Syria, Somalia and Eritrea, which are all war zones. All want to cross the Mediterranean to Italy and Greece in order to gain entry into Europe (2)\_\_\_ a new life (3)\_\_\_ the European Union. Every day hundreds continue to try their luck from the shores of Tunisia and Libya. Many migrants cross in boats that often fail to make it, resulting in many people drowning.

Libya is now a mecca (4)\_\_\_ people smugglers. The lawless country is (5)\_\_\_ war with itself following the removal of Colonel Gaddafi (6)\_\_\_ the European Superpowers. The ongoing tribal fighting has split the country into two. (7)\_\_\_ people smugglers there are making huge amounts (8)\_\_\_ money sending people over to Europe.

***for / by / of / in / a / the / and / at***

(1)\_\_\_ migrants are desperate to get to Europe for the better life. (2)\_\_\_ these people have escaped regimes (3)\_\_\_ they might have been killed, so crossing the Mediterranean is a risk worth taking. But is it? Recently the news has been full of horror stories of boats sinking or capsizing. A captain of a capsized boat that killed 800 migrants was recently charged (4)\_\_\_ reckless multiple homicide.

The EU funded Mediterranean Rescue Service 'Triton' has replaced the previous and larger Italian run 'Mare Nostrum' rescue service, (5)\_\_\_ was costing the Italians too much to run. (6)\_\_\_, is it the EU's job to rescue illegal immigrants trying to get into Europe? (7)\_\_\_ the EU simply ignore the current tide of migrants and let them all drown? Malta and Italy are seeking urgent solutions to the migrant crisis (8)\_\_\_ many EU States have simply chosen to ignore.

***that / a lot of / many / should / however / which / with / where***

## GAP FILL: LISTENING

### More migrant boats sink or capsize in Mediterranean

A huge crisis is unfolding in the \_\_\_\_\_ as more and more migrants head towards Europe from Africa, the \_\_\_\_\_. Many migrants are coming from countries like Syria, Somalia and Eritrea, which are all war zones. All want to cross the Mediterranean to Italy and Greece in order to gain entry into Europe and a new life in \_\_\_\_\_. Every day hundreds continue to try their luck from the shores of Tunisia and Libya. Many migrants cross in boats that often fail to make it, resulting in many people drowning.

Libya is now a mecca \_\_\_\_\_. The lawless country is at war with itself following the removal of Colonel Gaddafi by the European Superpowers. The ongoing \_\_\_\_\_ has split the country into two. The people smugglers there are making huge amounts of money sending people over to Europe.

Many migrants are desperate to get to Europe for the better life. \_\_\_\_\_ have escaped regimes where they might have been killed, so crossing the Mediterranean is a risk worth taking. But is it? Recently the news has been full of horror stories of boats \_\_\_\_\_. A captain of a capsized boat that killed 800 migrants was recently charged with \_\_\_\_\_.

The EU funded Mediterranean Rescue Service 'Triton' has replaced the previous and larger Italian run 'Mare Nostrum' rescue service, which was costing the Italians too much to run. However, is it the EU's job to rescue \_\_\_\_\_ trying to get into Europe? Should the EU simply ignore the current tide of migrants and let them all drown? Malta and Italy are seeking \_\_\_\_\_ the migrant crisis that many EU States have simply chosen to ignore.

**www.newsflashenglish.com**

Copyright D. J. Robinson 2015 (V1)

## WRITING/SPELLING

### WRITING / SPEAKING

**1) On the board** - *In pairs*, list 20 things you know about **Migrants to the EU**. *Five minutes*. *Talk about each of them*.

**2) Sentence starters** - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) The EU \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) The Mediterranean \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Migrants \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **More migrant boats sink or capsize in Mediterranean**. Your email can be read out in class.

\*\*\* (The EU abandon them and they are picked up by the traffickers and towed back to Africa to be reused three to four times more until they sink!)

### GAP FILL READING

- 1) crisis
- 2) Mediterranean
- 3) gain
- 4) migrants
- 5) mecca
- 6) smugglers
- 7) lawless
- 8) split

### ANSWERS

- 1) risk
- 2) horror
- 3) captain
- 4) reckless
- 5) previous
- 6) simply
- 7) solutions
- 8) ignore

### SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) Mediterranean
- 2) Libya
- 3) Tunisia
- 4) homicide
- 5) Somalia
- 6) Eritrea
- 7) multiple
- 8) migrants
- 9) countries
- 10) people

### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**

**Good = 15**

**Very good = 18**

**Excellent = 20**

- 11) smugglers
- 12) regimes
- 13) risk
- 14) previous
- 15) illegal
- 16) immigrants
- 17) urgent
- 18) ignore
- 19) desperate
- 20) reckless

More migrant boats sink in Mediterranean – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015