



New Internationalist
The people, the ideas, the action in the fight for global justice

Stories: helping refugees

NEW INTERNATIONALIST EASIER ENGLISH

Pre-Intermediate READY LESSON

The lesson today:

Speaking – about refugees

Reading – about refugees

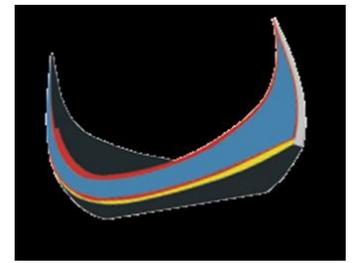
Vocabulary – from the stories

Grammar – verb tenses

Writing - tweets

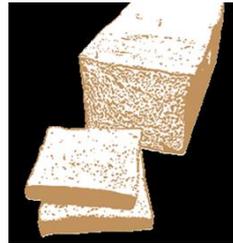


Refugees



What are the problems?

How can people help?



Think of a plan in pairs and present to the class.



Reading: here are the headlines for 6 news stories – what are the stories?:

a) Safe in the Bakery

b) Clothes for the Children

c) Caravans in The Jungle

d) Rescue in Asia

e) Stopping 12,000 Deaths at Sea

f) Telephone Help for Africa



NOW READ THE STORIES QUICKLY TO MATCH THE HEADLINES

1/ Millionaire US-Italian couple Christopher and Regina Catrambone saw a winter coat in the sea near their boat on a family holiday in the Mediterranean in 2013. Months later, 400 people – mostly Syrians and Eritreans – died in the sea near Lampedusa, about 160 kilometres from Malta where the Catrambone family live. So they decided to do something. They bought a rescue ship, The Phoenix, and in 2014 they paid – it costs more than \$500,000 per month – to save migrants in the Mediterranean Sea between Libya and Italy.

The project is Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS). They now have two drones and two fast rescue boats. They have saved the lives of 12,000 people. After so many people saw the photo of the dead refugee child on a beach, in September 2015, many people sent money to MOAS. They got \$1 million in only two days. Their next project is to help Rohingya refugees in the Andaman Sea.

2/ In Nigeria, the government and Boko Haram (the Islamic extremist group) have been fighting for four years. More than two million people have had to leave their homes. Less than 10 per cent of homeless people are in government camps. All the others have to stay with friends, family – or bakers. Lawal Dan Gashua is 52. He runs a bakers' association in Maiduguri, and he has looked after 300 people in his house. Since 2012, when homeless people started arriving, he has put as many people as possible into his old house, and he has found places for many others in his community. Now he has 14 boys living there. Their fathers were killed or kidnapped – with thousands of others – by Boko Haram. He gets no support from the government, but he feels responsible.

3/ Meron Estefanos has probably saved the life of 16,000 people in the last year – but she doesn't want to know the exact number. 5,000 people escape from Eritrea and its controlling government every month. And many of them have her telephone number. They have problems on boats crossing to Italy, and they call Estefanos. She is a 40-year-old radio journalist. From her flat in Stockholm, she gives the information about where the boat is to the coastguard; at least 50 boats were rescued like this in 2015.

Refugees from Eritrea have many other problems – not only the journey across the Mediterranean. Kidnappers take hundreds of them – they torture, rape and kill them in places like Sudan and Libya. Estefanos tries to get the hostages released by telephone, she collects money to pay the kidnappers, and she helps their families. She also tries to make governments do something to help. Estefanos says that if Westerners were kidnapped in the Sinai, everyone would do more to help. 'This is a race problem,' she says. 'Sadly, nobody cares about Africans.'

4/ In May 2015, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia left thousands of Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshis in the Andaman Sea, with nowhere to go. So people from the villages took action. Indonesian fishers in Sumatra saw many starving people on the boats. So they helped the women and children, the sick and people suffering from trauma. They brought them to land and gave them food, clothes and medical help. 'We helped them because they needed help,' said 38-year-old Myusup Mansur from the small island village of Pusung. He, with other fishers, rescued 677 people. 'What is more human than that?'

5/ Lea Beven wanted to do something after she saw a picture of a refugee child. ‘He was standing in water in “The Jungle” in Calais, in front of a tent,’ she says. ‘I had just bought a caravan. I was in it with my three-year-old son and I started crying. I thought, “Why am I here when they are in tents?”’ Since September 2015, Beven and many others around Britain have raised more than \$33,000 and taken 50 caravans to the informal refugee camp in Calais. The camp is around the entrance to the Channel Tunnel between France to Britain – more than 6,000 people now live there. Volunteers, medical units and refugee families live in the caravans.

6/ When children get to Greece after they cross the Aegean Sea, they are often very wet and cold. Sometimes they are freezing if they have been in the water. Jeannie Etherton was a volunteer on the Greek Island of Leros. She thought of the idea of One Outfit One Child. They send these ready packs of clothes, with an age label, directly to groups that help on the beaches. So people dry the children and put new clothes on them immediately before they get too cold.

Read the stories again – are these

TRUE or FALSE?



- 1/ Christopher Catrambone lives in Lampedusa.
- 2/ It costs over half a million dollars a month to run The Phoenix.
- 3/ The Nigerian baker is now looking after 300 refugees in his house.
- 4/ Estefanos phones people in Italy, Sudan and Libya to help.
- 5/ Estafanos helps Westerners more than people from Eritrea.
- 6/ Myusup Mansur rescued 677 people from Bangladesh.
- 7/ Beven moved in her caravan to The Jungle in Calais.
- 8/ People in Greece give packs of clothes for the children.

Vocabulary – match:

1/ extremist

2/ coastguard

3/ to kidnap

4/ hostage

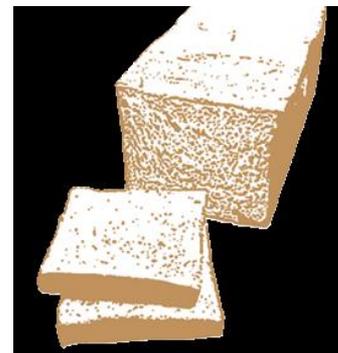
5/ trauma

6/ outfit

- a) a set of clothes eg. trousers, t-shirt, jumper, socks and shoes
- b) to take someone and keep them a prisoner
- c) a person kept as a prisoner to try to get something in return
- d) someone who watches the sea to help boats or people in danger
- e) someone who has very extreme political or religious views
- f) an experience that is so sad it can have serious physical and mental effects

Put back the verbs (in the correct tense!) in the gaps:

Lawal Dan Gashua (1.be) 52. He (2.run) a bakers' association in Maiduguri, and he (3. look) after 300 people in his house. Since 2012, when homeless people (4. start) ... arriving, he (5. put) as many people as possible into his old house, and he (6. find) places for many others in his community. Now he (7.have) 14 boys living there.



Now match the verb tense with the explanation:

1/ He **is** 52.

2/ He **runs** an association.

3/ He **has looked** after 300 people.

4/ They **started** arriving.

5/ Since 2012, he **has put** people in his house.

6/ He **has found** places for many others.

7/ Now he **has** 14 boys.

a) Past simple – finished action in the past.

b) Present simple – now.

c) Present perfect – from the past time up to the present time.

Writing

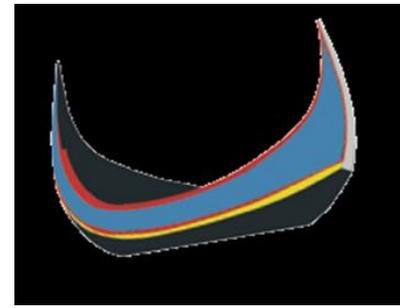
Write some tweets to tell others about these great stories about helping refugees. Tweets must be no more than 140 characters:

eg. 'Couple bought a boat and saved the lives of 12,000 refugees in the Mediterranean!'





Homework:



Read some more short news stories about helping refugees and write tweets about them!

[http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/9_stories - helping refugees and migrants](http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/9_stories_helping_refugees_and_migrants)