

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

# News stories

(from 2015)

NEW INTERNATIONALIST EASIER ENGLISH  
Pre-Intermediate READY LESSON

# This lesson:

- **Speaking**
- **Reading**
- **Vocabulary**
- **Grammar**

**Why do you need these?**

**Which is most important for you?**

**How do they help?**

# What do you think these stories are about?

a/



b/



And which country are they from?

c/



d/



e/



f/



# Match stories to photos:

1) LIBERIA, AFRICA Sunshine ladies. In Liberia, women solar engineers install and manage solar lamps in their communities. Many villages do not have electrical power. Most of this was destroyed in Liberia's 14-year civil war. This ended in 2003. In 2009, a National Energy Policy decided they must have 30-per-cent renewable power generation by the end of 2015. The sunshine ladies are helping this. Women are now 54 per cent of workers in Liberia.

2) BAHRAIN, MIDDLE EAST A cat eats small bits of meat in the meat market. At the start of 2015, the government told the people of Bahrain there would not be enough meat because they cut subsidies on meat imports. But in October, the low oil prices made the economy worse. So the government stopped subsidies on meat completely. So the price of meat doubled, and people stopped buying it.

3) PAKISTAN, ASIA Very hot weather in Karachi: a man under a public water tap after he filled bottles. More than 800 people died in Sindh (south Pakistan) in the terrible heatwave in June. There were emergency medical paramilitary camps in the streets. Temperatures went up to 45°C (113°F). There were long power cuts so many people could not use air-conditioning and fans. Many people said local authorities did not do enough.

4) JAPAN, ASIA There are 5.5 million black sacks of radiation-contaminated soil around in Fukushima province. The government is still cleaning up after the 2011 nuclear disaster. There are hundreds of square kilometres that no-one can enter because of radioactivity. They have put thousands of tonnes of topsoil in bags, but there is nowhere to keep the radioactive material. There could be 20 million bags when the clean-up operations end in 2017.

5) NIUE/NEW ZEALAND Government worker Foag Kaiuha and his wife Nera live on the Pacific island of Niue. But about 90-95 per cent of the population – about 20,000 people – have moved to New Zealand/Aotearoa, where there are more jobs and better opportunities. Only 1,500 people still live there. So the government has invited immigrants from Tuvalu, an island nearby. Tuvalu has problems with rising sea levels caused by climate change. In 2015, the New Zealand foreign minister said they are investing NZ\$7.5-million in expanding a resort on the island. They say that tourism is very important to getting Niue independent again.

6) ARGENTINA, S.AMERICA A new law (May 2015) in the province of Buenos Aires says that children's hospitals must have trained clowns. 'Clown doctors' do not need a medical degree, but Rubén Darío Golia from congress, who introduced the law, believes they will help the work of doctors. 'When we laugh, we produce enkephalin, which, like morphine, can reduce pain,' he explained.

# Vocabulary – match word and definition

a) subsidy

b) solar engineer

c) tap

d) radiation

e) heatwave

f) to invest

g) to  
contaminate

h) renewable  
energy

i) clown

j) morphine

k) topsoil

1/ to put money in a project – and hope to make more money

2/ a long time of very hot weather

3/ to add poison or pollution to something

4/ eg. solar, wind or hydro-electric power – it never ends

5/ a strong drug that helps stop pain

6/ the layer of earth at the top

7/ energy from radioactive material eg. nuclear waste

8/ money from the government to help keep prices low

9/ someone who works with systems to make energy from the sun

10/



11/



# Reading

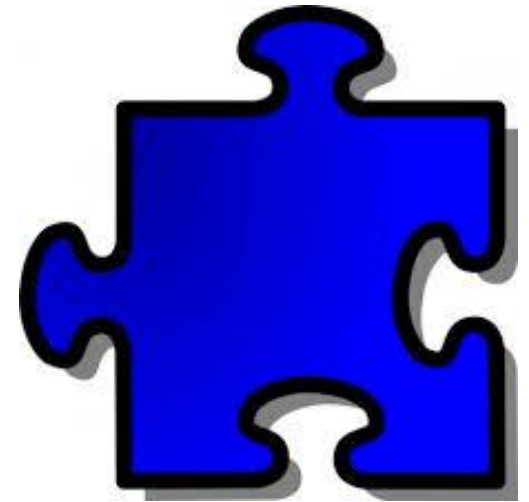
Each student will read one or two stories.

Find out about:

a) the problem

b) the solution to the problem

Practise talking about it - you will have to tell others about your stories.



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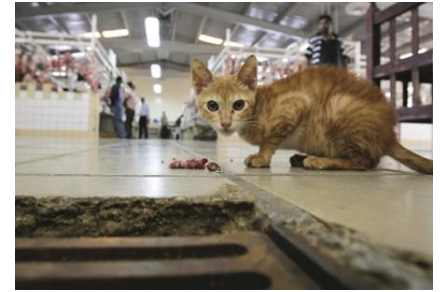
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# Speaking:

In groups:

- tell the others about your stories (problem and solution) and
- ask questions about their stories.



## **Find and correct the errors in these summaries (2 each):**

- 1/ In Liberia, there is no enough electricity, so many women installing solar panels.
- 2/ In Bahrain, the government cutted subsidies on meat from another countries, so people stopped eating meat.
- 3/ In Pakistan, was a heatwave, so they having medical camps in the streets.
- 4/ In Japan, they need to get rid the radioactive soil, so they puts it in bags.
- 5/ In Niue, many people are leave the island, so they are invite immigrants from Tuvalu and increasing tourism.
- 6/ In Argentina, there are child in hospital, so they have made a new laws to bring clowns into hospitals to reduce pain naturally.

# Now check:

- 1/ In Liberia, there is **not** enough electricity, so many women **are installing** solar panels.
- 2/ In Bahrain, the government **cut** subsidies on meat from **other** countries, so people stopped eating meat.
- 3/ In Pakistan, **there** was a heatwave, so they **have** medical camps in the streets.
- 4/ In Japan, they need to get rid **of** the radioactive soil, so they **put** it in bags.
- 5/ In Niue, many people **are leaving** the island, so they **are inviting** immigrants from Tuvalu and increasing tourism.
- 6/ In Argentina, there are **children** in hospital, so they have made **new laws** to bring clowns into hospitals to reduce pain naturally.

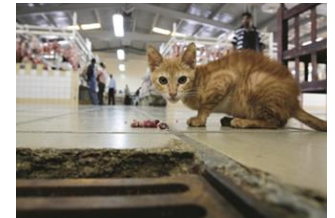
# Speaking:

In groups, put the stories in order:

a) Which did you like best – and why?



b) Which stories are most positive – and why?



c) Which stories are most important (for the world) – and why?



# Homework:



1/ Read more short news stories here:

[http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/2015:news\\_from\\_around\\_the\\_world](http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/2015:news_from_around_the_world)

2/ Choose 2 stories and write a short summary about the problem and solution.

