

# www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-use ESL/EFL Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

**The Breaking News English.com Resource Book**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html>

## 'Occupy' protests go global

[http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1110/111016-occupy\\_protests.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1110/111016-occupy_protests.html)

### Contents

The Article	2
Warm-ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading / Listening	7
Student Survey	8
Discussion	9
Language Work	10
Writing	11
Homework	12
Answers	13

**16th October, 2011**

# THE ARTICLE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111016-occupy\\_protests.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111016-occupy_protests.html)

The "Occupy Wall Street" protests that began in New York on September the 17th have now moved around the world. Demonstrations have spread to more than 60 major cities worldwide. Protesters were out in force at the weekend in Tokyo, Rome, London, Buenos Aires, Helsinki and other capitals and financial centres. Protests in the Italian capital saw battles between protestors and police in which dozens were injured, shop windows smashed and cars torched. The protests are against corporate greed and corruption, government cuts, and social inequality. In Japan, protestors marched behind "Occupy Tokyo" banners and protested outside the headquarters of the owner of the Fukushima nuclear power plants.

Occupy Wall Street was started in New York by the Canadian activist group Adbusters. The movement is now being compared to the Tahrir Square protests in Cairo earlier this year and the Arab Spring. Jesse LaGreca, a leader of Occupy Wall Street, spoke on U.S. television about the spread of the protests around the world. He said: "We are seeing our future stolen away from us while the wealthiest one percent get richer and richer, and I'm glad people are taking a role and participating in their democracy." He added: "The growth is happening very organically. There is communication among protestors worldwide through Twitter, through Facebook, through social media, and just through friends who are concerned about each other."

# WARM-UPS

**1. THE "OCCUPY" PROTESTS:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about the "Occupy" protests. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*protests / major cities / out in force / financial centres / injured / corporate greed / activists / Arab Spring / our future / richer and richer / organically / concerned*

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

**3. PROTESTS:** What's the best way to protest about these things? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote.

	The best way	Effectiveness
Increased homework		
Corporate greed		
Government cuts		
War		
A faulty product		
Rising prices		

**4. GREEDY:** Students A **strongly** believe people will stop being greedy one day; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. DEMONSTRATE:** What would make you take to the streets? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- Higher taxes
- War
- Environment
- Building of nuclear plants
- Education cuts
- Democracy
- To oust a leader
- Corporate greed

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

'Occupy' protests go global – 16th October, 2011

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111016-occupy\\_protests.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111016-occupy_protests.html)

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

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a. The "Occupy" protests have moved to almost every country on Earth. | T / F |
| b. The article mentions cities on there different continents.         | T / F |
| c. Cars were set on fire in the Italian capital.                      | T / F |
| d. The Japanese protested against the Fukushima nuclear power owners. | T / F |
| e. The protests were originally started by angry Americans.           | T / F |
| f. "Occupy" has also started in Cairo's Tahrir Square.                | T / F |
| g. One per cent of the wealthiest are also protesting.                | T / F |
| h. Demonstrators are communicating via social networking sites.       | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. protests      | a. richest        |
| 2. worldwide     | b. fights         |
| 3. battles       | c. set on fire    |
| 4. torched       | d. likened        |
| 5. inequality    | e. taking part    |
| 6. compared      | f. demonstrations |
| 7. wealthiest    | g. unfairness     |
| 8. glad          | h. worried        |
| 9. participating | i. globally       |
| 10. concerned    | j. happy          |

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

- |                                  |                      |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Protesters were out           | a. torched           |
| 2. battles between protestors    | b. plants            |
| 3. shop windows smashed and cars | c. very organically  |
| 4. corporate greed               | d. group Adbusters   |
| 5. the Fukushima nuclear power   | e. in force          |
| 6. the Canadian activist         | f. about each other  |
| 7. the spread of the protests    | g. and participating |
| 8. people are taking a role      | h. and corruption    |
| 9. The growth is happening       | i. and police        |
| 10. friends who are concerned    | j. around the world  |

'Occupy' protests go global – 16th October, 2011

# WHILE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111016-occupy\\_protests.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111016-occupy_protests.html)

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The "Occupy Wall Street" protests that (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in New York on September the 17th have now moved around the world. Demonstrations have spread to more than 60 (2) \_\_\_\_\_ cities worldwide. Protesters were out in force at the weekend in Tokyo, Rome, London, Buenos Aires, Helsinki and other capitals and financial centres. Protests in the Italian capital saw (3) \_\_\_\_\_ between protestors and police in which (4) \_\_\_\_\_ were injured, shop windows smashed and cars (5) \_\_\_\_\_. The protests are against corporate greed and corruption, government cuts, and social (6) \_\_\_\_\_. In Japan, protestors marched (7) \_\_\_\_\_ "Occupy Tokyo" banners and protested outside the headquarters of the owner of the Fukushima nuclear power (8) \_\_\_\_\_.

*inequality*

*dozens*

*major*

*behind*

*plants*

*began*

*torched*

*battles*

Occupy Wall Street was started in New York by the Canadian (9) \_\_\_\_\_ group Adbusters. The movement is now being (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to the Tahrir Square protests in Cairo earlier this year and the Arab Spring. Jesse LaGreca, a leader of Occupy Wall Street, spoke on U.S. television about the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of the protests around the world. He said: "We are seeing our future (12) \_\_\_\_\_ away from us while the wealthiest one percent get richer and richer, and I'm glad people are taking a (13) \_\_\_\_\_ and participating in their democracy." He added: "The growth is happening very (14) \_\_\_\_\_. There is communication (15) \_\_\_\_\_ protesters worldwide through Twitter, through Facebook, through social (16) \_\_\_\_\_, and just through friends who are concerned about each other."

*media*

*stolen*

*among*

*compared*

*spread*

*role*

*activist*

*organically*

'Occupy' protests go global – 16th October, 2011

## LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111016-occupy\\_protests.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111016-occupy_protests.html)

The "Occupy Wall Street" \_\_\_\_\_ New York on September the 17th have now moved around the world. Demonstrations have spread to more than 60 \_\_\_\_\_. Protesters were out in force at the weekend in Tokyo, Rome, London, Buenos Aires, Helsinki and other capitals and financial centres. Protests in the Italian capital saw \_\_\_\_\_ and police in which dozens were injured, shop windows \_\_\_\_\_. The protests are against corporate \_\_\_\_\_, government cuts, and social inequality. In Japan, protestors marched behind "Occupy Tokyo" banners and protested \_\_\_\_\_ of the owner of the Fukushima nuclear power plants.

Occupy Wall Street was started in New York by the Canadian activist group Adbusters. The movement is \_\_\_\_\_ to the Tahrir Square protests in Cairo earlier this year and the Arab Spring. Jesse LaGreca, a leader of Occupy Wall Street, spoke on U.S. television about the \_\_\_\_\_ around the world. He said: "We are seeing our future stolen away from us while the \_\_\_\_\_ get richer and richer, and I'm glad people are taking a \_\_\_\_\_ in their democracy." He added: "The growth is happening very organically. There is communication \_\_\_\_\_ through Twitter, through Facebook, through social media, and just through friends who are \_\_\_\_\_ other."

'Occupy' protests go global – 16th October, 2011

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111016-occupy\\_protests.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111016-occupy_protests.html)

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'street' and 'protests'.

<b>street</b>	<b>protests</b>
---------------	-----------------

- 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>• moved</li><li>• force</li><li>• centres</li><li>• cars</li><li>• cuts</li><li>• plants</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• group</li><li>• earlier</li><li>• spoke</li><li>• richer</li><li>• growth</li><li>• media</li></ul>
--	---

# STUDENT THE "OCCUPY" PROTESTS SURVEY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111016-occupy\\_protests.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111016-occupy_protests.html)

Write five GOOD questions about the "Occupy" protests 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.

'Occupy' protests go global – 16th October, 2011



# THE "OCCUPY" PROTESTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'protests'?
- c) What do you protest about and how?
- d) What do you think of the "Occupy Wall Street" protests?
- e) Do you think the protests will continue, and continue to spread?
- f) What are the protestors protesting about?
- g) What would get you onto the streets wearing a face mask?
- h) How do you feel about corporate greed?
- i) What should governments do about social inequality?
- j) What do you hope for the future of the protests?

*'Occupy' protests go global - 16th October, 2011*  
More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com)

---

# THE "OCCUPY" PROTESTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Do you think the movement will develop into something bigger?
- c) Are there similarities between "Occupy Wall Street" and the Arab Spring?
- d) Is Jesse LaGreca right in saying, "We are seeing our future stolen away from us"?
- e) Do the rich deserve to be rich?
- f) Should more people be participating in the protests?
- g) Is protesting something governments welcome as part of democracy?
- h) Where would the protests be without Twitter and Facebook?
- i) What would you like to protest about at the moment?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Jesse LaGreca?

# LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111016-occupy\\_protests.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111016-occupy_protests.html)

The "Occupy Wall Street" protests that began in New York on September the 17th have now moved around the world. Demonstrations have (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to more than 60 major cities worldwide. Protesters were out in (2) \_\_\_\_\_ at the weekend in Tokyo, Rome, London, Buenos Aires, Helsinki and other capitals and financial centres. Protests in the Italian capital (3) \_\_\_\_\_ battles between protestors and police in which dozens were injured, shop windows smashed and cars (4) \_\_\_\_\_. The protests are against corporate (5) \_\_\_\_\_ and corruption, government cuts, and social inequality. In Japan, protestors marched behind "Occupy Tokyo" (6) \_\_\_\_\_ and protested outside the headquarters of the owner of the Fukushima nuclear power plants.

Occupy Wall Street was started in New York by the Canadian activist group Adbusters. The movement is now being (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to the Tahrir Square protests in Cairo earlier this year and the Arab Spring. Jesse LaGreca, a leader of Occupy Wall Street, spoke (8) \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. television about the spread of the protests around the world. He said: "We are seeing our future (9) \_\_\_\_\_ away from us while the wealthiest one percent get richer and richer, and I'm glad people are taking a role and participating (10) \_\_\_\_\_ their democracy." He added: "The growth is happening very (11) \_\_\_\_\_. There is communication among protestors worldwide through Twitter, through Facebook, through social media, and just through friends who are concerned (12) \_\_\_\_\_ each other."

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

- |     |                 |                |                 |               |
|-----|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) spreading   | (b) spreads    | (c) spreader    | (d) spread    |
| 2.  | (a) force       | (b) farce      | (c) forth       | (d) fourth    |
| 3.  | (a) looked      | (b) view       | (c) saw         | (d) watch     |
| 4.  | (a) lit up      | (b) torched    | (c) spotlighted | (d) beamed    |
| 5.  | (a) greedy      | (b) greed      | (c) breed       | (d) weedy     |
| 6.  | (a) tatters     | (b) rubbers    | (c) banners     | (d) zippers   |
| 7.  | (a) compared    | (b) comparison | (c) comparative | (d) comparing |
| 8.  | (a) of          | (b) at         | (c) in          | (d) on        |
| 9.  | (a) burgled     | (b) robbery    | (c) theft       | (d) stolen    |
| 10. | (a) at          | (b) in         | (c) of          | (d) from      |
| 11. | (a) organically | (b) organs     | (c) organism    | (d) organic   |
| 12. | (a) of          | (b) from       | (c) about       | (d) under     |

'Occupy' protests go global – 16th October, 2011



# 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 the "Occupy" protests. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. THE "OCCUPY" PROTESTS:** Make a poster about the "Occupy" protests. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. PROTESTS:** Write a magazine article about the protests. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against them.

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. LETTER:** Write a letter to a protest leader. Ask him/her three questions about the "Occupy" protests. Give him/her three of your opinions on them. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE:

a. F      b. T      c. T      d. T      e. F      f. F      g. F      h. T

## SYNONYM MATCH:

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. protests      | a. demonstrations |
| 2. worldwide     | b. globally       |
| 3. battles       | c. fights         |
| 4. torched       | d. set on fire    |
| 5. inequality    | e. unfairness     |
| 6. compared      | f. likened        |
| 7. wealthiest    | g. richest        |
| 8. glad          | h. happy          |
| 9. participating | i. taking part    |
| 10. concerned    | j. worried        |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |                                  |                      |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Protesters were out           | a. in force          |
| 2. battles between protestors    | b. and police        |
| 3. shop windows smashed and cars | c. torched           |
| 4. corporate greed               | d. and corruption    |
| 5. the Fukushima nuclear power   | e. plants            |
| 6. the Canadian activist         | f. group Adbusters   |
| 7. the spread of the protests    | g. around the world  |
| 8. people are taking a role      | h. and participating |
| 9. The growth is happening       | i. very organically  |
| 10. friends who are concerned    | j. about each other  |

## GAP FILL:

### 'Occupy' protests go global

The "Occupy Wall Street" protests that (1) **began** in New York on September the 17th have now moved around the world. Demonstrations have spread to more than 60 (2) **major** cities worldwide. Protesters were out in force at the weekend in Tokyo, Rome, London, Buenos Aires, Helsinki and other capitals and financial centres. Protests in the Italian capital saw (3) **battles** between protestors and police in which (4) **dozens** were injured, shop windows smashed and cars (5) **torched**. The protests are against corporate greed and corruption, government cuts, and social (6) **inequality**. In Japan, protestors marched (7) **behind** "Occupy Tokyo" banners and protested outside the headquarters of the owner of the Fukushima nuclear power (8) **plants**.

Occupy Wall Street was started in New York by the Canadian (9) **activist** group Adbusters. The movement is now being (10) **compared** to the Tahrir Square protests in Cairo earlier this year and the Arab Spring. Jesse LaGreca, a leader of Occupy Wall Street, spoke on U.S. television about the (11) **spread** of the protests around the world. He said: "We are seeing our future (12) **stolen** away from us while the wealthiest one percent get richer and richer, and I'm glad people are taking a (13) **role** and participating in their democracy." He added: "The growth is happening very (14) **organically**. There is communication (15) **among** protesters worldwide through Twitter, through Facebook, through social (16) **media**, and just through friends who are concerned about each other."

## LANGUAGE WORK

1 - d    2 - a    3 - c    4 - b    5 - b    6 - c    7 - a    8 - d    9 - d    10 - b    11 - a    12 - c

'Occupy' protests go global – 16th October, 2011