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**Level 5** – 23rd May, 2019

## Billionaire to pay off student debt for class of 2019

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist-5.html>

Students at a college in the USA got a huge surprise during their commencement ceremony. The students were listening to a speech at Morehouse College from the philanthropist Robert F. Smith. He was a recipient of an honorary degree. He ended his speech by informing 400 students that he would pay their student loans, worth about \$40 million. He said: "This is my class, 2019, and my family is making a grant to eliminate their student loans." He added: "On behalf of the eight generations of my family who have been in this country, we're going to put a little fuel in your bus."

Robert F. Smith, 56, earned an MBA with honors from Columbia Business School. In 2000, he founded the investment company Vista Equity Partners, which manages over \$46 billion in assets. Vista made him a multi-billionaire. Mr Smith was the first African-American to sign the Giving Pledge. People who sign this promise to give at least half of their wealth to different causes. A graduate who had his \$150,000 loan paid off said it would have an "immeasurable impact" on his life. He said: "Just imagine the weight lifted off your shoulders when you have a clean slate coming out of college."

Sources: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/billionaire-philanthropist-shocks-morehouse-grads-promising-pay-off/story?id=63137376>  
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/who-is-morehouse-billionaire-robert-f-smith/>  
<https://atlantablackstar.com/2019/05/20/billionaire-investor-ceo-robert-smith-shocks-morehouse-graduates-with-promise-to-eliminate-their-student-loan-debt/>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                |                       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. a huge                      | a. student loans      |
| 2. commencement                | b. about \$40 million |
| 3. He was a recipient of an    | c. fuel in your bus   |
| 4. student loans, worth        | d. surprise           |
| 5. my family is making a       | e. honorary degree    |
| 6. eliminate their             | f. of my family       |
| 7. the eight generations       | g. ceremony           |
| 8. we're going to put a little | h. grant              |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                       |                        |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. earned an MBA                      | a. off your shoulders  |
| 2. he founded the investment          | b. billionaire         |
| 3. Vista made him a multi-            | c. paid off            |
| 4. give at least half of their wealth | d. slate               |
| 5. had his \$150,000 loan             | e. impact on his life  |
| 6. have an immeasurable               | f. to different causes |
| 7. imagine the weight lifted          | g. with honors         |
| 8. have a clean                       | h. company             |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist-5.html>

Students at a college in the USA got (1) \_\_\_\_\_ during their commencement ceremony. The students were listening (2) \_\_\_\_\_ at Morehouse College from the philanthropist Robert F. Smith. He was a recipient of an honorary degree. He (3) \_\_\_\_\_ by informing 400 students that he would pay their student (4) \_\_\_\_\_ \$40 million. He said: "This is my class, 2019, and my family is making a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ their student loans." He added: "On behalf of the eight generations of my family who have been in this country, we're going to put (6) \_\_\_\_\_ in your bus."

Robert F. Smith, 56, (7) \_\_\_\_\_ with honors from Columbia Business School. In 2000, (8) \_\_\_\_\_ investment company Vista Equity Partners, which manages over \$46 (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Vista made him a multi-billionaire. Mr Smith was the first African-American to sign the Giving Pledge. People who (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to give at least half of their wealth to different causes. A graduate who had his \$150,000 loan (11) \_\_\_\_\_ it would have an "immeasurable impact" on his life. He said: "Just (12) \_\_\_\_\_ lifted off your shoulders when you have a clean slate coming out of college."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist-5.html>

Students at a college in the USA got a huge surprise during their commencement ceremony. The students were listening to a speech at Morehouse College from the philanthropist Robert F. Smith. He was a recipient of an honorary degree. He ended his speech by informing 400 students that he would pay their student loans, worth about \$40 million. He said: "This is my class, 2019, and my family is making a grant to eliminate their student loans." He added: "On behalf of the eight generations of my family who have been in this country, we're going to put a little fuel in your bus." Robert F. Smith, 56, earned an MBA with honors from Columbia Business School. In 2000, he founded the investment company Vista Equity Partners, which manages over \$46 billion in assets. Vista made him a multi-billionaire. Mr Smith was the first African-American to sign the Giving Pledge. People who sign this promise to give at least half of their wealth to different causes. A graduate who had his \$150,000 loan paid off said it would have an "immeasurable impact" on his life. He said: "Just imagine the weight lifted off your shoulders when you have a clean slate coming out of college."

# PHILANTHROPISTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1905/190523-philanthropist-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about philanthropists 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.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

