

Germany and Austria welcome refugees

8th September, 2015



Germany and Austria welcomed thousands of refugees yesterday after their long walk through Hungary. The refugees arrived at train stations in Germany and at the Austrian border to crowds of local

people who applauded the new arrivals and gave them water, food and clothes. German and Austrian children carried baskets of sweets to give to the children from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries. For many of the refugees it was the end of a long journey that started in Syria and ended with a long walk through Hungary. German rail company Deutsche Bahn announced on Saturday that it would be adding extra carriages to its trains and was doing "doing everything it can" to help the refugees.

The United Nations (UN) has praised Austria and Germany for their efforts to welcome and help the refugees. It said: "This is political leadership based on humanitarian values." Germany's leader Angela Merkel said her country would welcome all refugees from Syria. Germany is expecting around 800,000 Syrians to arrive this year amid continuing uncertainty about the future of Syria. Ms Merkel told reporters that, "as a strong, economically healthy country, we have the strength to do what is necessary." One refugee, a Syrian shopkeeper said: "I'm very glad to be in Germany. I hope that I find here a much better life. I want to work." He expressed concern for his family and young children still in Syria.

Sources: *dw.com / Huffington Post / BBC*

Writing

All European countries should take an equal share of Syria's refugees. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

welcome / long walk / crowds / new arrivals / baskets / sweets / a long journey / extra / praised / political / leadership / values / uncertainty / healthy / a better life / concern

True / False

- The article says Germany welcomed over 100,000 refugees. T / F
- People in Germany and Austria clapped when the refugees arrived. T / F
- The Syrian children gave sweets to Austrian and German children. T / F
- German trains will be longer so they can fit more refugees on. T / F
- The United Nations spoke about humanitarian leadership. T / F
- Germany will accept no more than 800,000 refugees. T / F
- Angela Merkel said Germany is strong enough to do what is necessary. T / F
- A Syrian shopkeeper is worried about his family still in Syria. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. welcomed | a. commended |
| 2. crowds | b. required |
| 3. applauded | c. throngs |
| 4. walk | d. endeavours |
| 5. adding | e. trek |
| 6. praised | f. at a time of |
| 7. efforts | g. greeted |
| 8. amid | h. worry |
| 9. necessary | i. clapped |
| 10. concern | j. putting on |

Discussion – Student A

- How will Germany accommodate all the refugees?
- Why are there so many refugees in the world?
- What do refugees add to their adopted country?
- What is your country doing to help the refugees?
- What do you think the refugee situation will be like in 5 years?
- What advice would you give to the refugees?
- What do you think Syria will be like in 10 years' time?
- What questions would you like to ask European leaders?

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Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Germany and Austria welcomed | a. applauded the new arrivals |
| 2. at the Austrian | b. to its trains |
| 3. people who | c. what is necessary |
| 4. adding extra carriages | d. uncertainty |
| 5. doing everything it | e. thousands of refugees |
| 6. political | f. concern |
| 7. based | g. can to help |
| 8. amid continuing | h. leadership |
| 9. the strength to do | i. border |
| 10. He expressed | j. on humanitarian values |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about the refugees going to Europe?
- What do you know about the fighting between Europe's leaders?
- Which countries should accept the refugees?
- How do you think refugees felt when they arrived in Germany?
- What more should the UN be doing to help?
- What can you do to help?
- What do you think of Germany?

Spelling

- Germany and Austria welcomed tasnhdsuo
- the new lrvaairs
- at the Austrian odrerb
- people who pealapddu the new arrivals
- the end of a long yojuenr
- adding extra rcarasgei
- prisdæ Austria and Germany
- their etffsro to welcome and help the refugees
- ainumahtnrai values
- amid continuing tnireayuctn
- do what is esracseyn
- He expressed necnroc

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. c	3. i	4. e	5. j
6. a	7. d	8. f	9. b	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Smiles

You think smiles are the best things to welcome the refugees with. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least welcoming of these (and why): a medical check-up, phone rechargers or a hot drink.

Role B – A medical check-up

You think a medical check-up is the best thing to welcome the refugees with. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least welcoming of these (and why): smiles, phone rechargers or a hot drink.

Role C – Phone rechargers

You think phone rechargers are the best things to welcome the refugees with. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least welcoming of these (and why): a medical check-up, smiles or a hot drink.

Role D – A hot drink

You think a hot drink is the best thing to welcome the refugees with. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least welcoming of these (and why): a medical check-up, phone rechargers or smiles.

Speaking – Welcome

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to welcome the refugees at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------|--------------------|
| • sweets | • medical check-up |
| • smiles | • phone charges |
| • applause | • a blanket |
| • shoes | • a hot drink |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.