

Before I was a refugee

In this video, people living in a camp in the port of Athens are asked what they did before they were labelled 'refugee'. Watch the video to find out what they say.

Tasks

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises. You can also read the transcript.

Preparation task

Complete the sentences with words from the box.

agricultural engineering student	cable guy	dentist	driver
engineer	fashion boutique	mechanic	mother

1. A takes care of people's teeth.
2. A repairs the engines of vehicles and other machines.
3. An learns about farms and food production.
4. An designs or builds machines, electrical equipment, roads, bridges, etc.
5. A drives a taxi, lorry, car, bus, train or other vehicle.
6. A is one of the people who take care of the family.
7. A is a technician who helps homes and businesses connect to the internet, television, etc.
8. Someone who works in a sells stylish clothes and accessories to people.

Task 1

Put the ideas in the order that they are mentioned in the video.

- _____ Many refugees feel alone without their families.
- _____ One of the people is hopeful that the future will be better than now.
- _____ The people in the video had jobs or studied before they left their home countries.
- _____ Many refugees left their homes because of dangerous situations like war.
- _____ Some of the people play games or do sport, not for fun but just to keep busy.
- _____ A lot of the refugees felt useful, important, happy and comfortable in their own countries.

Task 2

Put the words in the correct order to make sentences.

1. respect. country. Second, First, I have dignity I have in my
2. was so Our life city. lovely. We in our had everything
3. I feel country. But more comfortable in my war, I escaped. because of
4. anything, because we don't have finished But now everything. the war
5. family you're a lone Without just like tree.
6. to what We try forget happened to us.
7. play chess, We play to make but just cards, we time go.
8. night. One become a bright day. this is day it will I know

Discussion

What can we do to help the refugee crisis?

Transcript

I am a dentist, from Kabul.

I'm a mechanic.

I studied agriculture engineering.

Yes, I was studying in university.

What did you study?

Energy.

I am engineer.

Driver.

Mother.

I worked with British army in Afghanistan.

I was a cable guy.

Job in boutique and fashion. Men and women. In central Baghdad.

My life, it was good. I don't have economical problems. Just I have my life problem.

First, I have dignity in my country. This is first. Second, I have respect.

Our life was so, so lovely. We have everything in our city.

I feel more comfortable in my country. But because of war, I escape.

But now we don't have anything, because the war finished everything.

It's very difficult to live without family. Without family you just like a lone tree. No one can help you. No one can care you.

Iraq, Iraq, problem. Iraq no good. Family in Iraq ... no family. Finished.

We try to forget what happened to us.

We try to do something to, you know, make better. You know? Just football or some hobbies.

We play cards, we play chess, we go to swim, we do, but just to make time goes. Just we want to finish the day. Nothing more, nothing less. But not to have a fun, because nothing, nothing will make us happy here.

We are just waiting for a bright day, we are waiting for a bright day. I know this is night, it's night. One day it will become a bright day. And we are just waiting for a bright day.

Answers

Preparation task

1. dentist
2. mechanic
3. agricultural engineering student
4. engineer
5. driver
6. mother
7. cable guy
8. fashion boutique

Task 1

- 4 Many refugees feel alone without their families.
- 6 One of the people is hopeful that the future will be better than now.
- 1 The people in the video had jobs or studied before they left their home countries.
- 3 Many refugees left their homes because of dangerous situations like war.
- 5 Some of the people play games or do sport, not for fun but just to keep busy.
- 2 A lot of the refugees felt useful, important, happy and comfortable in their own countries.

Task 2

1. First, I have dignity in my country. Second, I have respect.
2. Our life was so lovely. We had everything in our city.
3. I feel more comfortable in my country. But because of war, I escaped.
4. But now we don't have anything, because the war finished everything.
5. Without family you're just like a lone tree.
6. We try to forget what happened to us.
7. We play cards, we play chess, but just to make time go.
8. I know this is night. One day it will become a bright day.