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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Words in the News

### Symbol of peace



*NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript*

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#### Transcript

It's the **temple** that brought Londonderry together. On Saturday they **burnt it down**.

Catholics and Protestants have a long history of **conflict** in this Northern Irish city.

But **volunteers** from both communities came together to build the structure. Thousands left personal messages of peace inside.

Organisers say the fire **symbolises** letting go of the past.

#### Vocabulary

##### **temple**

a building used to pray to god or gods

##### **burnt it down**

destroyed it with fire

##### **conflict**

a serious disagreement or argument between two or more groups

##### **volunteers**

people who offer to work without being paid

##### **symbolises**

represents an idea

**Watch the video online: Symbol of peace** <http://bbc.in/1HC3zAs>

## Exercise

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from news reports. Note that you may have to change the form of a word to complete the sentence correctly.

**temple / burnt it down / conflict / volunteers / symbolises**

1. Since the last train left in 1988, the once-regal station has come to \_\_\_\_\_ Detroit's economic woes and has become a favourite canvas for graffiti artists.
2. Speaking in front of US soldiers and military families, Mr Ghani acknowledged US sacrifices throughout the war in Afghanistan.  
  
"Each one of you has left a legacy," he said, noting that more than 2,200 Americans lost their lives and 20,000 were wounded in the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ are being recruited by steam railway enthusiasts to help rebuild and reopen an old Worcestershire station.
4. Ferguson's police are on edge, feeling under siege after two of their own were shot, while African Americans have lost trust in the law enforcement officials meant to protect them.  
  
"I am afraid this town is going to \_\_\_\_\_ tonight," one white resident tells me on Thursday just a few blocks from the police station.
5. This year, the anniversary of Gandhi's murder was marked by attempts by right-wing Hindus to build a \_\_\_\_\_ to honour Godse, a man they now describe as a hero for ridding the nation of Gandhi.

## Answers

1. Since the last train left in 1988, the once-regal station has come to **symbolise** Detroit's economic woes and has become a favourite canvas for graffiti artists.

**Source:** Michigan Central Station: The story of its rise, fall and...

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-31596161>

2. Speaking in front of US soldiers and military families, Mr Ghani acknowledged US sacrifices throughout the war in Afghanistan.

"Each one of you has left a legacy," he said, noting that more than 2,200 Americans lost their lives and 20,000 were wounded in the **conflict**.

**Source:** Afghan president Ghani credits US role during first Washington trip

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-32021942>

3. **Volunteers** are being recruited by steam railway enthusiasts to help rebuild and reopen an old Worcestershire station.

**Source:** Volunteers recruited for Broadway station rebuild

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-32002327>

4. Ferguson's police are on edge, feeling under siege after two of their own were shot, while African Americans have lost trust in the law enforcement officials meant to protect them.

"I am afraid this town is going to **burn down** tonight," one white resident tells me on Thursday just a few blocks from the police station.

**Source:** Ferguson police shooting 'heinous', says Eric Holder

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-31853547>

5. This year, the anniversary of Gandhi's murder was marked by attempts by right-wing Hindus to build a **temple** to honour Godse, a man they now describe as a hero for ridding the nation of Gandhi.

**Source:** Is Gandhi still a hero to Indians?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-31847578>