

UK STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITY FEES PROTESTS

1. GAP FILL: Reading while listening. Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Tens of thousands of students across the U.K. _____ part in protests on Wednesday _____ their government's increase in tuition fees. They were speaking out against the three-_____ rise in the prices universities can charge, and voicing their opposition to the scrapping of benefits that will _____ poor students. The nationwide protest was organized by the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts (NCAFC). High school and university students, teachers and _____ took to the streets to demonstrate. Around 10,000 protestors rallied in London, where there were arrests after _____ clashes left a police officer with a broken arm. The protests were largely trouble-_____, unlike those two weeks earlier in which the ruling Conservative Party headquarters was _____.

harm
ugly
attacked
against
lecturers
took
free
fold

Britain's _____ coalition government have made many cuts to university education, while at the same time _____ universities to increase tuition fees from \$5,624 a year to \$14,400. They say these measures are necessary to _____ the country's budget deficit. Most of the public fury is directed at the junior coalition partner, the Liberal Democrats, whose election _____ earlier this year was to _____ tuition and maintain transport benefits for students from low-income families. Their leader has done a total U-_____ and broken these promises. Until the late 1990s, British students did not need to pay tuition, and many poorer students received _____ living allowances from the government. Many protestors believe this will _____ opportunities for the poor. They carried banners saying: "R.I.P. My Degree."

abolish
reduce
ruling
kill
pledge
turn
allowing
weekly

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

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. took part | a. getting rid of |
| 2. protests | b. payments |
| 3. scrapping | c. fights |
| 4. clashes | d. governing |
| 5. headquarters | e. anger |
| 6. ruling | f. participated |
| 7. measures | g. promise |

8. fury
9. pledge
10. allowances

- h. demonstrations
- i. actions
- j. HQ

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. students across the U.K. took | a. fold rise in the prices |
| 2 the three- | b. pledge |
| 3. opposition to the scrapping | c. living allowances |
| 4. there were arrests after | d. headquarters was attacked |
| 5. the ruling Conservative Party | e. are necessary |
| 6. Britain's ruling | f. ugly clashes |
| 7. these measures | g. part in protests |
| 8. election | h. a total U-turn |
| 9. Their leader has done | i. of benefits |
| 10. poorer students received weekly | j. coalition government |

4. 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.