2020 GRADUATION CEREMONIES

The 2019 - 2020 school year is ending in the U.S. Seniors in high schools and colleges are graduating! Seniors graduate from schools after they have completed all their schoolwork. Most students graduate after spending four years at high schools or colleges. Many schools celebrate graduating seniors by having graduation ceremonies. Graduation ceremonies are usually in May or June each year. Graduation ceremonies will be different for many schools in 2020. Many school buildings have closed because of the coronavirus. Many seniors have worked hard to complete their schoolwork online to finish the school year.
Schools want to celebrate the seniors’ hard work. Usually at graduation ceremonies, students, teachers, and the families and friends of seniors gather to celebrate. People cannot currently gather because of the coronavirus, so schools are finding other ways to celebrate seniors. Some schools are having ceremonies online. For these ceremonies, seniors put on traditional caps and gowns. They can join special video calls and see other seniors from their schools. Seniors can hear school leaders announce all their names. They can hear some seniors give speeches. Some schools are delaying ceremonies too. They are hoping seniors can celebrate together during ceremonies later in the summer.
Graduation ceremonies usually have speakers who give special speeches called commencement speeches. These speakers are often city leaders, authors, athletes and more. Many speakers give speeches about what they did after graduation or what the seniors might do in their futures. This year some famous people wanted to celebrate seniors in a special way. They recorded commencement speeches for seniors across the U.S. to listen to. They put the speeches onto a podcast called Commencement: Speeches for the Class of 2020. The famous people include talk show host Jimmy Fallon, singer John Legend, soccer player Abby Wambach and journalist Katie Couric.
Graduating is exciting for seniors! Many cities are helping seniors celebrate. Some cities are having car parades. Seniors drive cars through their cities and people stand in their yards and cheer. In some cities, teachers are driving by the seniors’ homes to cheer for them. Some schools are putting signs into seniors’ yards to congratulate them. Many seniors are graduating this year. Seniors have different plans after graduation. Some seniors may move to new places or cities. Some seniors may go to new schools or start new jobs. Graduation ceremonies may be different in 2020, but schools still want to celebrate seniors. Congratulations, seniors!
1. WHAT is the main idea of this story?

- Seniors have different plans after graduation.
- Some schools are having graduation ceremonies online.
- Graduation ceremonies are different for seniors in 2020.

2. CIRCLE True or False about the following statements:

All schools are having graduation ceremonies later this summer.  True  False
Many school buildings have closed because of the coronavirus.  True  False
Graduation ceremonies are usually in October.  True  False

3. ANSWER these questions about the story:

Who are graduating from schools?  

What did famous people put speeches onto?  

4. NUMBER these events in the order they happen:

_____ A student starts high school.

_____ A student graduates from high school.

_____ A student completes all the schoolwork.

5. CIRCLE Fact or Opinion about the following statements:

Most students graduate after four years at high schools.  Fact  Opinion
Graduation ceremonies usually have speakers.  Fact  Opinion

May 25, 2020
1. WHEN will you graduate?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2. WHAT would you like to do after you graduate?  Why?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

3. HOW do you think seniors feel when they graduate?  Why?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

4. HOW was school different for you this year?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Page 1: Shutterstock/michaeljung

Page 2: Associated Press/LM Otero

Page 3: Shutterstock/s_bukley
 Associated Press/John Nacion/STAR MAX/IPx

Page 4: Associated Press/Tony Gutierrez