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Level 6 – 30th July, 2020

Scaled down Hajj takes place in Mecca

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca.html>

Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	15
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	16
Vocabulary	4	Spelling	17
Before Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	18
Gap Fill	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	19
Match The Sentences And Listen	7	Circle The Correct Word	20
Listening Gap Fill	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	21
Comprehension Questions	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	22
Multiple Choice - Quiz	10	Put A Slash (/) Where The Spaces Are	23
Role Play	11	Free Writing	24
After Reading / Listening	12	Academic Writing	25
Student Survey	13	Homework	26
Discussion (20 Questions)	14	Answers	27

Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca.html>

The annual Hajj is set to take place in the sacred city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The pilgrimage is one of the most important events in the Muslim calendar. It lasts approximately 5 to 6 days and is a mandatory religious duty for Muslims. Hajj must be carried out at least once in the lifetime of all adult Muslims. However, they must be physically and financially capable of undertaking the journey and must be able to support their family during their absence. This year's Hajj has been greatly scaled down because precautionary measures for coronavirus have been put in place. The pandemic has meant the postponement of numerous events, causing considerable disappointment for pilgrims.

The Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah announced last month that it was severely limiting the number of pilgrims allowed to enter the holy site this year. Officials said the measures were to avoid any further outbreaks of COVID-19 and contain the risks of infection. Many Muslim-majority countries around the world have cancelled pilgrimages to Mecca. The result is that Mecca will see only a tiny fraction of the two million pilgrims it usually receives during Hajj. This year, places will be restricted to a few thousand Saudi Arabian citizens. Twenty-two-time pilgrim Wafa Shaheen said: "I was not upset by the Hajj news this year as I know there are plenty of ways to take advantage of this precious spiritual time."

Sources: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1711031/saudi-arabia>
<https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/hajj-2020-latest-updates-as-the-pilgrimage-begins-1.1055536>
<https://gulfnnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/haj-2020-pilgrims-from-160-nationalities-set-to-perform-rituals-1.72803704>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hajj>

WARM-UPS

1. HAJJ: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Hajj. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

annual / Hajj / sacred / Mecca / pilgrimage / religious / duty / journey / pandemic / holy / site / officials / measures / outbreak / infection / fraction / precious / spiritual

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. PILGRIMAGE: Students A **strongly** believe everyone should go on a pilgrimage once in their lives; Students B **strongly** believe this isn't necessary. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. RELIGIOUS DUTIES: How important are these religious duties to you? Why? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How Important?	Why?
Prayer		
Charity		
Attend places of worship		
Love thy neighbour		
Fasting		
Marriage until death		

5. ANNUAL: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "annual". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. PRAYER: Rank these with your partner. Put the best important things to pray for at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- World peace
- Your family
- Good health
- A COVID-19 vaccine
- Wealth
- The poor and sick
- Salvation
- Love

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. annual | a. Promising to do a particular thing. |
| 2. sacred | b. A journey to a place associated with someone or something well known or respected, or of religious importance. |
| 3. pilgrimage | c. Regarded with great respect by a particular religion. |
| 4. approximately | d. The action of causing or arranging for something to take place at a time later than that first scheduled. |
| 5. undertaking | e. Occurring once every year. |
| 6. precautionary | f. Used to show that something is almost, but not completely, accurate or exact; roughly. |
| 7. postponement | g. Carried out or done to prevent something dangerous, unpleasant, or inconvenient from happening. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 8. severely | h. A plan or course of action taken to achieve a particular purpose. |
| 9. measure | i. Limited in extent, number, scope, or action. |
| 10. infection | j. Relating to or affecting the human spirit or soul as opposed to material or physical things. |
| 11. fraction | k. The process of infecting or the state of being infected. |
| 12. restricted | l. Of great value; not to be wasted or treated carelessly. |
| 13. precious | m. A small or tiny part, amount, or proportion of something. |
| 14. spiritual | n. To an undesirably great or intense degree. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. Hajj can last for up to six days. **T / F**
- b. All adult Muslims should attend Hajj at least once in their lives. **T / F**
- c. A Muslim must be in good physical and financial health to attend Hajj. **T / F**
- d. Very few Muslims are disappointed that events have been postponed. **T / F**
- e. The Ministry of Hajj announced the limiting of numbers in April. **T / F**
- f. Many Muslim-majority countries are going ahead with their pilgrimages. **T / F**
- g. Only a limited number of Saudi citizens will be attending this year's Hajj. **T / F**
- h. A twenty-two-time pilgrim will attend her twenty-third Hajj this year. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. sacred | a. embarking on |
| 2. mandatory | b. part |
| 3. undertaking | c. restricting |
| 4. precautionary | d. deferral |
| 5. postponement | e. exploit |
| 6. limiting | f. compulsory |
| 7. contain | g. valuable |
| 8. fraction | h. preventative |
| 9. take advantage of | i. restrain |
| 10. precious | j. holy |

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. the sacred | a. of the two million |
| 2. one of the most important events | b. duty for Muslims |
| 3. a mandatory religious | c. the number of pilgrims |
| 4. they must be physically | d. events |
| 5. the postponement of numerous | e. advantage of this |
| 6. it was severely limiting | f. city of Mecca |
| 7. avoid any further outbreaks | g. of ways |
| 8. only a tiny fraction | h. of COVID-19 |
| 9. I know there are plenty | i. in the Muslim calendar |
| 10. take | j. and financially capable |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca.html>

The annual Hajj is (1) _____ to take place in the sacred city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The pilgrimage is one of the most important events in the Muslim (2) _____. It lasts (3) _____ 5 to 6 days and is a mandatory religious (4) _____ for Muslims. Hajj must be carried out at least once in the lifetime of all adult Muslims. However, they must be physically and financially (5) _____ of undertaking the journey and must be able to support their family during their absence. This year's Hajj has been greatly (6) _____ down because precautionary measures for coronavirus have been put in (7) _____. The pandemic has meant the postponement of numerous events, causing (8) _____ disappointment for pilgrims.

duty
considerable
calendar
capable
place
set
approximately
scaled

The Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah (9) _____ last month that it was severely limiting the number of pilgrims allowed to enter the (10) _____ site this year. Officials said the measures were to avoid any further outbreaks of COVID-19 and contain the (11) _____ of infection. Many Muslim-majority countries around the world have cancelled pilgrimages to Mecca. The result is that Mecca will see only a (12) _____ fraction of the two million pilgrims it usually receives during Hajj. This year, places will be (13) _____ to a few thousand Saudi Arabian citizens. Twenty-two-time pilgrim Wafa Shaheen said: "I was not (14) _____ by the Hajj news this year as I know there are (15) _____ of ways to take advantage of this (16) _____ spiritual time."

tiny
upset
announced
restricted
risks
plenty
holy
precious

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca.html>

- 1) The annual Hajj is set to take place in _____
 - a. the sacred citadel
 - b. the sacred city
 - c. the sacred sighting
 - d. the scared city
- 2) The pilgrimage is one of the most important events in _____
 - a. the Muslim calendar
 - b. the Muslim colander
 - c. the Muslim coriander
 - d. the Muslim cleanser
- 3) It lasts approximately 5 to 6 days and is a mandatory _____
 - a. religious duly
 - b. religious dew tea
 - c. religious due tea
 - d. religious duty
- 4) they must be physically and financially capable of _____
 - a. undertaken the journey
 - b. under take in the journey
 - c. under taking the journey
 - d. undertaking the journey
- 5) The pandemic has meant the postponement _____
 - a. of numeral events
 - b. of numerals events
 - c. of numerous events
 - d. of numbers events
- 6) it was severely limiting the number of pilgrims allowed to enter _____
 - a. the wholly site
 - b. the holy site
 - c. the holey site
 - d. the whole lea site
- 7) Officials said the measures were to avoid _____
 - a. any furthered outbreaks
 - b. any furthers outbreaks
 - c. any farther outbreaks
 - d. any further outbreaks
- 8) of COVID-19 and contain the _____
 - a. risks soft infection
 - b. risks of infection
 - c. risk soft infection
 - d. risks off infection
- 9) the result is that Mecca will see only _____
 - a. a tiny friction
 - b. a tiny function
 - c. a tiny faction
 - d. a tiny fraction
- 10) there are plenty of ways to take advantage of this _____
 - a. precious spirit all time
 - b. precious spirit tall time
 - c. precious spirit Yule time
 - d. precious spiritual time

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca.html>

The annual Hajj is set to take place in (1) _____ of Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The pilgrimage is one of the most important events in the Muslim calendar. (2) _____ 5 to 6 days and is a mandatory (3) _____ Muslims. Hajj must be carried out at least once in the lifetime of all adult Muslims. However, they (4) _____ and financially capable of undertaking the journey and must be able to support their family (5) _____. This year's Hajj has been greatly scaled down because precautionary measures for coronavirus have been (6) _____. The pandemic has meant the postponement of numerous events, causing considerable disappointment for pilgrims.

The Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah announced last month that it was (7) _____ number of pilgrims allowed to enter the holy site this year. Officials said the measures were to (8) _____ outbreaks of COVID-19 and contain the (9) _____. Many Muslim-majority countries around the world have cancelled pilgrimages to Mecca. The result is that Mecca will see only (10) _____ of the two million pilgrims it usually receives during Hajj. This year, places will be (11) _____ few thousand Saudi Arabian citizens. Twenty-two-time pilgrim Wafa Shaheen said: "I was not upset by the Hajj news this year as I know there are plenty of ways to take advantage of this (12) _____."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca.html>

1. How long can Hajj last?
2. How many times must adult Muslims attend Hajj in their lifetime?
3. What must pilgrims be able to support in their absence?
4. What have precautionary measures been put in place for?
5. What has the pandemic caused the postponement of?
6. What Saudi ministry made an announcement to scale down Hajj?
7. What did the authorities want to contain the risk of?
8. Who has cancelled pilgrimages to the Hajj?
9. How many people usually attend Hajj?
10. How many times has Wafa Shaheen attended Hajj?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca.html>

- 1) How long can Hajj last?
 - a) 3 days
 - b) 5 or 6 days
 - c) 3 or 4 days
 - d) 8 days
- 2) How many times must adult Muslims attend Hajj in their lifetime?
 - a) ten times
 - b) three times
 - c) twice
 - d) once
- 3) What must pilgrims be able to support in their absence?
 - a) their family
 - b) their country
 - c) themselves
 - d) the poor
- 4) What have precautionary measures been put in place for?
 - a) bad weather
 - b) large crowds
 - c) the coronavirus
 - d) cyber-attacks
- 5) What has the pandemic caused the postponement of?
 - a) a meeting
 - b) numerous events
 - c) flights
 - d) the opening of a building
- 6) What Saudi ministry made an announcement to scale down Hajj?
 - a) the Saudi Ministry of Employment
 - b) the Saudi Ministry of Travel
 - c) the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah
 - d) the Saudi Ministry of Security
- 7) What did the authorities want to contain the risk of?
 - a) stampedes
 - b) bad weather
 - c) sandstorms
 - d) infection
- 8) Who has cancelled pilgrimages to the Hajj?
 - a) many Muslim-majority countries
 - b) Saudi Arabia
 - c) an imam
 - d) tour operators
- 9) How many people usually attend Hajj?
 - a) two million
 - b) half-a-million
 - c) one million
 - d) three million
- 10) How many times has Wafa Shaheen attended Hajj?
 - a) twenty-one
 - b) twenty-two
 - c) nineteen
 - d) thirty-two

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca.html>

Role A – World Peace

You think world peace is the greatest thing to pray for. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): good health, love or a COVID-19 vaccine.

Role B – Good Health

You think good health is the greatest thing to pray for. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): world peace, love or a COVID-19 vaccine.

Role C – Love

You think love is the greatest thing to pray for. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): good health, world peace or a COVID-19 vaccine.

Role D – A COVID-19 Vaccine

You think a COVID-19 vaccine is the greatest thing to pray for. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): good health, love or world peace.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'sacred' and 'city'.

sacred	city
---------------	-------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. 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.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• annual• lasts• least• financially• measures• numerous	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• severely• site• risks• result• few• time
--	---

HAJJ SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Hajj in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

HAJJ DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'Hajj'?
3. What do you know about Hajj?
4. What do you know about Mecca?
5. What are the most important events in your religion's calendar?
6. What mandatory religious duties are there in your religion?
7. What kind of pilgrimage would you like to go on?
8. What precautions have you taken regarding coronavirus?
9. Have you ever been disappointed because something was postponed?
10. How important is religion to you?

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HAJJ DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'pilgrimage'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What holy sites have you visited?
15. How do you feel when you enter a place of worship?
16. What can authorities do to lower the risks of infection?
17. What happens at Mecca during Hajj?
18. Would you like to visit Saudi Arabia?
19. How do you take advantage of precious spiritual time?
20. What questions would you like to ask the pilgrims?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca.html>

The annual Hajj is (1) _____ to take place in the sacred city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The pilgrimage is one of the most important events in the Muslim calendar. It lasts (2) _____ 5 to 6 days and is a mandatory religious duty for Muslims. Hajj must be carried out at least once in the (3) _____ of all adult Muslims. However, they must be physically and financially (4) _____ of undertaking the journey and must be able to support their family during their absence. This year's Hajj has been greatly scaled down because precautionary measures for coronavirus have been put (5) _____ place. The pandemic has meant the postponement of numerous events, causing considerable disappointment (6) _____ pilgrims.

The Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah announced last month that it was (7) _____ limiting the number of pilgrims allowed to enter the (8) _____ site this year. Officials said the measures were to avoid any further outbreaks of COVID-19 and contain the risks of (9) _____. Many Muslim-majority countries around the world have cancelled pilgrimages to Mecca. The result is that Mecca will see only a tiny fraction of the two million pilgrims it usually receives during Hajj. This year, places will be restricted (10) _____ a few thousand Saudi Arabian citizens. Twenty-two-(11) _____ pilgrim Wafa Shaheen said: "I was not upset by the Hajj news this year as I know there are plenty of ways to take advantage of this (12) _____ spiritual time."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. | (a) bet | (b) met | (c) let | (d) set |
| 2. | (a) approximation | (b) approx. | (c) approximate | (d) approximately |
| 3. | (a) lifeless | (b) lifetime | (c) lifelike | (d) lifeline |
| 4. | (a) culpable | (b) capacity | (c) capable | (d) cable |
| 5. | (a) on | (b) at | (c) in | (d) of |
| 6. | (a) for | (b) of | (c) at | (d) as |
| 7. | (a) selfless | (b) severely | (c) clarity | (d) await |
| 8. | (a) holy | (b) holly | (c) wholly | (d) holey |
| 9. | (a) inflection | (b) infection | (c) infraction | (d) inflation |
| 10. | (a) on | (b) of | (c) to | (d) at |
| 11. | (a) timely | (b) timed | (c) time | (d) times |
| 12. | (a) polished | (b) pernicious | (c) precocious | (d) precious |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca.html>

Paragraph 1

1. The iggemaripi is one of the most important events
2. a ytmdaoran religious duty
3. elapacb of undertaking the journey
4. aetanriupcyro measures
5. the eopetmposntn of numerous events
6. causing oesedcrbilna disappointment

Paragraph 2

7. it was rvlseeye limiting
8. meraessu were to avoid any further outbreaks
9. contain the risks of iofcneitn
10. see only a tiny critafno
11. cretteirsd to a few thousand
12. oruisepc spiritual time

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () important events in the Muslim calendar. It lasts approximately 5 to 6 days and is a mandatory religious
- () duty for Muslims. Hajj must be carried out at least once in the lifetime of all adult Muslims. However, they must
- () The Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah announced last month that it was severely limiting the number of
- () measures for coronavirus have been put in place. The pandemic has meant the postponement
- () of numerous events, causing considerable disappointment for pilgrims.
- () family during their absence. This year's Hajj has been greatly scaled down because precautionary
- () world have cancelled pilgrimages to Mecca. The result is that Mecca will see only a tiny
- () few thousand Saudi Arabian citizens. Twenty-two-time pilgrim Wafa Shaheen said: "I was not
- () fraction of the two million pilgrims it usually receives during Hajj. This year, places will be restricted to a
- (**1**) The annual Hajj is set to take place in the sacred city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The pilgrimage is one of the most
- () be physically and financially capable of undertaking the journey and must be able to support their
- () upset by the Hajj news this year as I know there are plenty of ways to take advantage of this precious spiritual time."
- () of COVID-19 and contain the risks of infection. Many Muslim-majority countries around the
- () pilgrims allowed to enter the holy site this year. Officials said the measures were to avoid any further outbreaks

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca.html>

1. city . place in take to sacred Set the
2. important most the Muslim calendar . events in The
3. must least be out carried once . Hajj at
4. year's down . scaled Hajj has This greatly been
5. events . the meant The has pandemic postponement of
6. limiting of pilgrims . number the severely was It
7. further any to were Measures outbreaks . avoid
8. tiny the A pilgrims . fraction of two million
9. will thousand . to a Places be few restricted
10. of this spiritual advantage Take precious time .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca.html>

The annual Hajj is *set / bet* to take place in the sacred city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The pilgrimage is one of the most important events in the Muslim *calendar / journal*. It lasts *appropriately / approximately* 5 to 6 days and is a mandatory religious *dutiful / duty* for Muslims. Hajj must be carried *in / out* at least once in the lifetime of all adult Muslims. However, they must be physically and financially *capability / capable* of undertaking the journey and must be *ability / able* to support their family during their absence. This year's Hajj has been greatly *scaled / slated* down because precautionary measures for coronavirus have been put *on / in* place. The pandemic has meant the postponement of numerous events, causing considerable disappointment *for / by* pilgrims.

The Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah *renounced / announced* last month that it was severely limiting the number of pilgrims *allowed / permit* to enter the holy site this year. Officials said the measures were to *evade / avoid* any further outbreaks of COVID-19 and contain the risks of *infected / infection*. Many Muslim-majority countries around the world have cancelled pilgrimages to Mecca. The result *be / is* that Mecca will see only a tiny *fraction / friction* of the two million pilgrims it usually receives *among / during* Hajj. This year, places will be restricted *at / to* a few thousand Saudi Arabian citizens. Twenty-two-time pilgrim Wafa Shaheen said: "I was not *upset / reset* by the Hajj news this year as I know there are plenty of ways to take advantage of this *precious / precocious* spiritual time."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca.html>

Th_ _n n__ l H_j j _s s_t t_ t_k_ p l_c_ _n th_ s_c
r_d c_t y _f M_c c_, S__ d_ A r_b__ . Th_ p_l g
r_m_g_ _s _n_ _f th_ m_s t _m p_r t_n t _v_n t_s _n
th_ M_s l_m c_l_n d_r . It l_s t_s _p p_r_x_m_t_l y
5 t_ 6 d_y s _n d _s _ m_n d_t_r y r_l_g___s d_t y
f_r M_s l_m s . H_j j m_s t b_ c_r r__ d __ t _t l__
s t _n c_ _n th_ l_f_t_m_ _f _l l _d_l t M_s l_m s .
H_w_v_r , th_y m_s t b_ p_h y_s_c_l_l y _n d f_n_n
c__ l_l y c_p_b_l _f _n d_r t_k_n g th_ j__ r_n_y _n d
m_s t b_ _b_l_ t_ s_p_p_r t th__ r f_m_l y d_r_n g
th__ r _b_s_n c_ . Th_s y__ r' s H_j j h_s b__ n g
r__ t_l y s_c_l_d d_w_n b_c__ s_ p_r_c__ t__ n_r y
m__ s_r_s f_r c_r_n_v_r_s h_v_ b__ n p_t _n p
l_c_ . Th_ p_n d_m_c h_s m__ n t th_ p_s t_p_n_m_n
t _f n_m_r__ s _v_n t_s , c__ s_n g c_n s_d_r_b_l
d_s_p_p__ n t_m_n t f_r p_l g_r_m s .

Th_ S__ d_ M_n_s t_r y _f H_j j _n d U m_r_h _n n__
n c_d l_s t m_n t h th_t _t w_s s_v_r_l y l_m_t_n
g th_ n_m_b_r _f p_l g_r_m s _l_l_w_d t_ _n t_r th_
h_l y s_t_ th_s y__ r . O_f_f_c__ l_s s__ d th_ m__
s_r_s w_r_ t_ v__ d _n y f_r th_r __ t_b_r__ k_s _f
C O V I D - 1 9 _n d c_n t__ n th_ r_s k_s _f _n f_c
t__ n . M_n y M_s l_m - m_j_r_t y c__ n t_r__ s _r__ n
d th_ w_r l_d h_v_ c_n c_l_l_d p_l g_r_m_g_s t_ M_c
c_ . Th_ r_s_l_t _s th_t M_c c_ w_l l s__ _n l y _
t_n y f_r c_t__ n _f th_ t_w_ m_l l__ n p_l g_r_m s
_t _s__ l_l y r_c__ v_s d_r_n g H_j j . Th_s y__ r ,
p_l_c_s w_l l b_ r_s t_r_c_t_d t_ _f_w th__ s_n d
S__ d_ A r_b__ n c_t_z_n s . T_w_n t_y - t_w_ - t_m_ p_l
g_r_m W_f_ S h_h__ n s__ d : " I w_s n_t _p_s_t b
y th_ H_j j n_w_s th_s y__ r _s I k_n_w th_r_
r p_l_n t_y _f w_y s t_ t_k_ _d_v_n t_g_ _f th_s p
r_c__ _s s_p_r_t__ l t_m_ . "

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca.html>

the annual hajj is set to take place in the sacred city of mecca, saudi arabia. the pilgrimage is one of the most important events in the muslim calendar. it lasts approximately 5 to 6 days and is a mandatory religious duty for muslims. hajj must be carried out at least once in the lifetime of all adult muslims. however, they must be physically and financially capable of undertaking the journey and must be able to support their family during their absence. this year's hajj has been greatly scaled down because precautionary measures for coronavirus have been put in place. the pandemic has meant the postponement of numerous events, causing considerable disappointment for pilgrims.

the saudi ministry of hajj and umrah announced last month that it was severely limiting the number of pilgrims allowed to enter the holy site this year. officials said the measures were to avoid any further outbreaks of covid-19 and contain the risks of infection. many muslim-majority countries around the world have cancelled pilgrimages to mecca. the result is that mecca will see only a tiny fraction of the two million pilgrims it usually receives during hajj. this year, places will be restricted to a few thousand saudi arabian citizens. twenty-two-time pilgrim wafa shaheen said: "i was not upset by the hajj news this year as i know there are plenty of ways to take advantage of this precious spiritual time

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca.html>

The annual Hajj is set to take place in the sacred city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The pilgrimage is one of the most important events in the Muslim calendar. It lasts approximately 5 to 6 days and is a mandatory religious duty for Muslims. Hajj must be carried out at least once in the lifetime of all adult Muslims. However, they must be physically and financially capable of undertaking the journey and must be able to support their family during their absence. This year's Hajj has been greatly scaled down because precautionary measures for coronavirus have been put in place. The pandemic has meant the postponement of numerous events, causing considerable disappointment for pilgrims. The Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah announced last month that it was severely limiting the number of pilgrims allowed to enter the holy site this year. Officials said the measures were to avoid any further outbreaks of COVID-19 and contain the risk of infection. Many Muslim-majority countries around the world have cancelled pilgrimage to Mecca. The result is that Mecca will see only a tiny fraction of the two million pilgrims it usually receives during Hajj. This year, places will be restricted to a few thousand Saudi Arabian citizens. Twenty-two-time pilgrim Wafa Shaheensaid: "I was not upset by the Hajj news this year as I know there are plenty of ways to take advantage of this precious spiritual time."

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. HAJJ: Make a poster about Hajj. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. CORONAVIRUS: Write a magazine article about things like Hajj carrying on as normal despite coronavirus. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on Hajj. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on the importance of Hajj. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. e 2. c 3. b 4. f 5. a 6. g 7. d
8. n 9. h 10. k 11. m 12. i 13. l 14. j

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a T b T c T d F e F f F g T h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- Five or six days
- Once
- Their family
- The coronavirus
- Numerous events
- The Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah
- Infection
- Many Muslim-majority countries
- Two million
- Twenty-two

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

- Set to take place in the sacred city.
- The most important events in the Muslim calendar.
- Hajj must be carried out at least once.
- This year's Hajj has been greatly scaled down.
- The pandemic has meant the postponement of events.
- It was severely limiting the number of pilgrims.
- Measures were to avoid any further outbreaks.
- A tiny fraction of the two million pilgrims.
- Places will be restricted to a few thousand.
- Take advantage of this precious spiritual time.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b 2. d 3. a 4. c 5. b 6. c 7. d 8. a 9. a 10. b

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)