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## **Level 5**

# **Iran and Saudi Arabia in war of words**

**6th January, 2016**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160106-iran-saudi-arabia-5.html>

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**Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26–page Level 6 (harder).**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160106-iran-saudi-arabia-5.html>

There is a war of words between Iran and Saudi Arabia after the execution of the Shia Muslim cleric Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr. He was among 47 men put to death on terrorism charges. Saudi leaders said Mr al-Nimr had led anti-government protests in 2011-2012. He was previously convicted of disobedience and of carrying arms. Al-Nimr said he never carried weapons or called for violence, but had encouraged people to resist police bullets using "the roar of the word" instead. Iran's leaders said al-Nimr was killed for being a Shia Muslim. Saudi Arabia is a largely Sunni Muslim country.

There were protests against the execution in the Iranian capital Tehran on Sunday. People attacked the Saudi Arabian embassy and set it on fire. Iran said Saudi Arabia would pay a "heavy price" for the execution, including the possible downfall of its government. Saudi Arabia said Iran had no right to create tensions on what was an internal Saudi matter. The foreign ministry said Mr al-Nimr was killed for breaking the law and not because he was a Shia Muslim. It said: "There is no difference between what a person does regardless of his ethnic origin or affiliation, or what he believes."

Sources: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/01/iran-saudi-arabia-wage-war-words-executions-160103104216327.html>  
<http://gulfnnews.com/news/gulf/saudi-arabia/iranian-threats-should-not-be-accepted-1.1647793>  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/saudi-executions-nimr-iran\\_56893488e4b014efe0dab27d?5xjyk3xr&utm\\_hp\\_ref=world](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/saudi-executions-nimr-iran_56893488e4b014efe0dab27d?5xjyk3xr&utm_hp_ref=world)

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160106-iran-saudi-arabia-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                       |                         |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. the Shia                           | a. Sunni Muslim country |
| 2. put to                             | b. Muslim cleric        |
| 3. He was previously convicted        | c. bullets              |
| 4. he never carried weapons or called | d. leaders              |
| 5. encouraged people to resist police | e. for violence         |
| 6. using the roar of                  | f. death                |
| 7. Iran's                             | g. the word instead     |
| 8. Saudi Arabia is a largely          | h. of disobedience      |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. There were protests                        | a. a "heavy price"       |
| 2. the Iranian                                | b. it on fire            |
| 3. attacked the Saudi Arabian embassy and set | c. origin                |
| 4. Saudi Arabia would pay                     | d. against the execution |
| 5. the possible downfall                      | e. create tensions       |
| 6. Iran had no right to                       | f. the law               |
| 7. killed for breaking                        | g. capital Tehran        |
| 8. regardless of his ethnic                   | h. of its government     |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160106-iran-saudi-arabia-5.html>

There is a war of words between Iran and Saudi Arabia (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the Shia Muslim cleric Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr. He was among 47 men (2) \_\_\_\_\_ terrorism charges. Saudi leaders said Mr al-Nimr had led anti-government protests in 2011-2012. He was previously convicted of disobedience (3) \_\_\_\_\_ arms. Al-Nimr said he never carried weapons or (4) \_\_\_\_\_, but had encouraged people (5) \_\_\_\_\_ bullets using "the roar of the word" instead. Iran's leaders said al-Nimr was killed for being a Shia Muslim. Saudi Arabia (6) \_\_\_\_\_ Sunni Muslim country.

There (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the execution in the Iranian capital Tehran on Sunday. People attacked the Saudi Arabian embassy (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Iran said Saudi Arabia would pay a "heavy price" for the execution, including (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of its government. Saudi Arabia said Iran (10) \_\_\_\_\_ create tensions on what was an internal Saudi matter. The foreign ministry said Mr al-Nimr was killed for (11) \_\_\_\_\_ and not because he was a Shia Muslim. It said: "There is no difference between what a person (12) \_\_\_\_\_ his ethnic origin or affiliation, or what he believes."

# IRAN & SAUDI ARABIA SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160106-iran-saudi-arabia-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Iran & Saudi Arabia 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.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

*Iran and Saudi Arabia in war of words – 6th January, 2016*  
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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

