

# Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES  
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

[breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html](http://breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html)

**Thousands more free lessons  
from Sean's other websites**

[www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean\\_banville\\_lessons.html](http://www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html)

**Level 4 – 30th July, 2020**

## Scaled down Hajj takes place in Mecca

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca-4.html>

### Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

**Twitter**



[twitter.com/SeanBanville](https://twitter.com/SeanBanville)

**Facebook**



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca-4.html>

The annual Hajj pilgrimage is taking place in the sacred city of Mecca. It is the most important event in the Muslim calendar. It is a mandatory religious duty for adult Muslims, who should attend once in their lifetime. They must be physically and financially capable of going on the journey and must be able to support their family. This year's Hajj has been scaled down because of coronavirus. The pandemic has postponed numerous events.

The Saudi Ministry of Hajj is limiting the number of pilgrims allowed into Mecca this year. It wants to avoid any outbreaks and lower the risk of infection. Many countries have cancelled their pilgrimages. This means Mecca will get a tiny fraction of the two million Hajj pilgrims it usually gets. Just a few thousand Saudi Arabian citizens can attend. A twenty-two-time pilgrim said: "There are plenty of other 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://gulffnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/haj-2020-pilgrims-from-160-nationalities-set-to-perform-rituals-1.72803704>  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hajj>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. The annual Hajj             | a. going               |
| 2. the most important event in | b. of coronavirus      |
| 3. a mandatory religious       | c. the Muslim calendar |
| 4. attend once in their        | d. numerous events     |
| 5. financially capable of      | e. their family        |
| 6. be able to support          | f. pilgrimage          |
| 7. scaled down because         | g. lifetime            |
| 8. The pandemic has postponed  | h. duty                |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. limiting the number | a. other ways          |
| 2. It wants to avoid   | b. fraction            |
| 3. lower the           | c. time                |
| 4. a tiny              | d. risk of infection   |
| 5. A twenty-two-time   | e. of pilgrims allowed |
| 6. There are plenty of | f. pilgrim             |
| 7. take advantage      | g. any outbreaks       |
| 8. precious spiritual  | h. of this             |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca-4.html>

The annual Hajj pilgrimage is taking place in the  
(1) \_\_\_\_\_ Mecca. It is the most important event in the  
Muslim calendar. It (2) \_\_\_\_\_ religious duty for adult  
Muslims, who should attend once (3) \_\_\_\_\_. They must  
be physically and financially (4) \_\_\_\_\_ on the journey  
and must be able to support their family. This year's Hajj  
(5) \_\_\_\_\_ down because of coronavirus. The pandemic  
has (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The Saudi Ministry of Hajj is (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of pilgrims  
allowed into Mecca this year. It (8) \_\_\_\_\_ any  
outbreaks and lower the (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Many countries  
have cancelled their pilgrimages. This means Mecca will get a  
(10) \_\_\_\_\_ the two million Hajj pilgrims it usually gets.  
Just a few thousand Saudi Arabian (11) \_\_\_\_\_. A  
twenty-two-time pilgrim said: "There are plenty of other ways  
(12) \_\_\_\_\_ of this precious spiritual time."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca-4.html>

The annual Hajj pilgrimage is taking place in the sacred city of Mecca. It is the most important event in the Muslim calendar. It is a mandatory religious duty for adult Muslims, who should attend once in their lifetime. They must be physically and financially capable of going on the journey and must be able to support their family. This year's Hajj has been scaled down because of coronavirus. The pandemic has postponed numerous events. The Saudi Ministry of Hajj is limiting the number of pilgrims allowed into Mecca this year. It wants to avoid any outbreaks and lower the risk of infection. Many countries have cancelled their pilgrimages. This means Mecca will get a tiny fraction of the two million Hajj pilgrims it usually gets. Just a few thousand Saudi Arabian citizens can attend. A twenty-two-time pilgrim said: "There are plenty of other ways to take advantage of this precious spiritual time."

# HAJJ SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca-4.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.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

*Scaled down Hajj takes place in Mecca – 30th July, 2020*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

---

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

