

Deadly alcohol kills 21 in Sudan (Mon 21 Mar, 2005)

WARM-UPS

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about Sudan / having a drink / alcohol / breweries / Sharia law / beer / beheading / ...Change topic / partner frequently to increase conversation.

BEER BRAINSTORM: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'beer'. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

ALCOHOL: In pairs/groups, talk about alcohol. Write down five questions about alcohol – one question under each of these headings:

- Alcohol and children
- Alcohol and driving
- Alcohol and Sharia law
- Alcohol on airplanes
- Alcohol and bad behaviour
- (Other headings?)

Ask them to your partner/group. If your group has two questions the same, you must think of another question under the same heading.

ALCOHOL OPINIONS: Talk about these with your partner:

- a. Alcohol is an important part of culture.
- b. Getting drunk is always great fun.
- c. Alcohol destroys many lives.
- d. Sharia law is spot on with alcohol: it should be banned.
- e. People who drink and drive should receive very severe punishments.
- f. Alcohol is a more dangerous drug than marijuana – it leads to general and domestic violence.
- g. Alcohol gives us confidence.
- h. It would be impossible to ban alcohol.
- i. Underage drinking is a serious social problem.
- j. A good red wine is heaven.
- k. Alcohol shouldn't be so heavily taxed.

PRE-READING IDEAS

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'crack' and 'down'.

TRUE FALSE: Guess whether the following statements about the article are true or false:

- a. Someone in Sudan got drunk and killed 21 people. T / F
- b. It is illegal to produce alcohol in Sudan. T / F
- c. Sudan's government warns against drinking alcohol when there's a full moon. T / F
- d. There is a large black market for bootleg liquor in Sudan. T / F
- e. Alcohol has been banned in Sudan for over one hundred years. T / F
- f. Muslims caught drinking alcohol in Sudan can be publicly flogged. T / F
- g. Non-Muslims in Sudan are exempted from the alcohol ban. T / F
- h. It is OK for western diplomats to drink alcohol in the parks and streets. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| (a) deadly | promised |
| (b) vowed | illegal |
| (c) booze | decapitation |
| (d) brew | busted |
| (e) bootleg | alcohol |
| (f) banned | excused |
| (g) beheading | lethal |
| (h) amputating | forbidden |
| (i) exempted | removing |
| (j) arrested | alcohol |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (a) deadly | been blinded |
| (b) Over the past | market for bootleg liquor |
| (c) six people have | include beheading |
| (d) close | few days |
| (e) a large black | down the breweries |
| (f) it is dangerous for Muslims | business |
| (g) Punishments under Sharia can | flogging |
| (h) public | exempted from the alcohol ban |
| (i) the largely | non-Muslim south |
| (j) Non-Muslims are | to be caught with them |

GAP FILL

Deadly alcohol kills 21 in Sudan

BNE: Having a drink has become a deadly _____ in Sudan. Over the past few days 21 people have died from drinking illegally produced alcohol. A _____ six people have been blinded. The government in Khartoum has vowed to crack down and punish the producers of the killer booze and close _____ the breweries. It has issued warnings to the public in newspapers of the dangers of drinking the homemade brew, and of the serious risks of making and selling it. There is a large black market for _____ liquor in Sudan; it is widely sold in the streets and smuggled across its borders. Many illegal breweries exist to _____ demand for alcohol, which was banned when Sharia law was introduced in 1983.

further satisfy business bootleg down

Beer and date brandy are very popular drinks in Sudan, even though it is dangerous for Muslims to be _____ with them. Sharia law _____ the production, sale and consumption of alcohol. Punishments under Sharia can include beheading, amputating fingers or whole hands, and public flogging. Despite this, illegal breweries are _____ in Sudan, especially in the _____ non-Muslim south. Non-Muslims are exempted from the alcohol ban, though they can be arrested for producing and selling it. It is OK for western diplomats to drink imported alcohol as _____ as they stay in their own homes or embassies.

common largely long forbids caught

DISCUSSION:

- a. What was interesting in this article?
- b. Were you surprised by anything in this article?
- c. Do you like alcohol?
- d. What part does alcohol play in your life?
- e. What are the bad things for society about drinking alcohol?
- f. Do you think Sharia law banning alcohol is a good thing for society?
- g. How often, when and where do you drink?
- h. Do you get hangovers?
- i. What is the worst hangover you've ever had?
- j. When was the first time you drank alcohol?
- k. What do you think of really drunk people?
- l. Is alcohol dangerous?
- m. What's your opinion on drinking alcohol and driving?
- n. What is the most sensible minimum legal age for drinking?
- o. Have you tasted bootleg liquor or bought bootleg CDs, computer software, videos etc?
- p. What do you think of being flogged for drinking alcohol?
- q. Should non-Muslims be allowed to drink alcohol in countries that have Islamic law?
- r. How important is alcohol in your culture?
- s. Do you know any alcoholics?
- t. Did you like this discussion?
- u. Teacher / Student additional questions.

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 information on Sharia law. Share your findings with your class next lesson.
- 3. ALCOHOL CULTURE:** Write a short essay on the history and position of alcohol in your country's culture.
- 4. SHARIA LAW:** Is banning alcohol, as under Sharia law, a good thing or a bad thing? Write down five pros and five cons of such a law. Use these in an activity in your next class.

TEXT

Deadly alcohol kills 21 in Sudan

BNE: Having a drink has become a deadly **business** in Sudan. Over the past few days 21 people have died from drinking illegally produced alcohol. A **further** six people have been blinded. The government in Khartoum has vowed to crack down and punish the producers of the killer booze and close **down** the breweries. It has issued warnings to the public in newspapers of the dangers of drinking the homemade brew, and of the serious risks of making and selling it. There is a large black market for **bootleg** liquor in Sudan; it is widely sold in the streets and smuggled across its borders. Many illegal breweries exist to **satisfy** demand for alcohol, which was banned when Sharia law was introduced in 1983.

Beer and date brandy are very popular drinks in Sudan, even though it is dangerous for Muslims to be **caught** with them. Sharia law **forbids** the production, sale and consumption of alcohol. Punishments under Sharia can include beheading, amputating fingers or whole hands, and public flogging. Despite this, illegal breweries are **common** in Sudan, especially in the **largely** non-Muslim south. Non-Muslims are exempted from the alcohol ban, though they can be arrested for producing and selling it. It is OK for western diplomats to drink imported alcohol as **long** as they stay in their own homes or embassies.