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Martti Ahtisaari wins Nobel Peace Prize

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12th October, 2008

THE ARTICLE

The former president of Finland Martti Ahtisaari has won the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize. He won it "for his important efforts, on several continents and over more than three decades, to resolve international conflicts." Mr Ahtisaari has worked tirelessly to end conflicts in many of the world's danger zones. He has successfully brought conflicting sides together to bring peace to Namibia, the Aceh province of Indonesia, Northern Ireland and in Kosovo. A spokesman for Norway's Nobel Committee described Ahtisaari as "an outstanding international mediator." He added Ahtisaari has "contributed to a more peaceful world and to 'fraternity between nations' in Alfred Nobel's spirit." Ex-colleague Gareth Evans said Mr. Ahtisaari "combines charm and good humor with an iron determination."

Mr. Ahtisaari was selected from a list of 197 nominees for the Peace Prize. He said he was "very pleased and grateful" for it. "I hope this will bring positive attention to Finland, and that it tells about our society and what is important to us," he said. Ahtisaari's work as a Finnish diplomat, a United Nations envoy and an international mediator has taken him all over the world. He has led humanitarian missions, and helped resolve difficult ethnic, racial and religious disputes. He built up a reputation for bringing enemies together and never giving up. Ahtisaari told the Nobel Foundation: "Every conflict can be solved. I think it's a disgrace for the international community that we have allowed so many conflicts to become frozen, and we are not making a serious effort to solve them."

WARM-UPS

1. PEACE: Walk around the class and talk to other students about peace. Change partners often. After you finish, sit with your partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

Finland / Nobel Peace Prize / resolving conflicts / danger zones / charm / humour / being pleased / gratitude / humanitarian missions / religious disputes / enemies

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

3. CONFLICT: Is there much conflict in your life? Complete the table and share what you wrote with your partner(s). Who is the best peace-maker?

Conflict with	The problem	My solution for peace
A parent		
Your boss		
Your boy/girlfriend		
Your best friend		
A colleague		
Next-door neighbour		

4. I WAS DRUNK: Students A **strongly** believe all conflicts between nations will be solved one day; Students B **strongly** believe countries will always find reasons to fight. Change partners again and talk about your roles and conversations.

5. YOUR PRIZE: Write down who you would choose for these prizes. Try to persuade your partner(s) your nominee should win the prizes.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Music prize• English prize• Technology prize• Sports prize	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Humanitarian prize• Politician prize• Fashion prize• Greatest living person prize
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6. PRIZE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'prize'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. Finland's president Ahtisaari is the Nobel Peace Prize winner for 2008. T / F
- b. Ahtisaari has worked for over 30 years bringing peace to the world. T / F
- c. The Nobel Prize committee said Ahtisaari was true to the Nobel spirit. T / F
- d. A former colleague of Ahtisaari said he had no sense of humour. T / F
- e. Ahtisaari was one of 197 nominees to win the prize. T / F
- f. Ahtisaari has never represented the United Nations during his work. T / F
- g. Ahtisaari's reputation is one of a man who never quits. T / F
- h. Ahtisaari is angry the world is not doing enough to stop conflicts. T / F

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. former | a. shame |
| 2. several | b. willpower |
| 3. resolve | c. good name |
| 4. fraternity | d. a number of |
| 5. determination | e. ambassador |
| 6. nominees | f. friendship |
| 7. envoy | g. ex- |
| 8. reputation | h. attempt |
| 9. disgrace | i. candidates |
| 10. effort | j. sort out |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Mt Ahtisaari has worked tirelessly to | a. together |
| 2. He has successfully brought conflicting sides | b. nations |
| 3. an outstanding international | c. pleased and grateful |
| 4. fraternity between | d. a list of 197 nominees |
| 5. Ahtisaari combines charm and good humor | e. end conflicts |
| 6. selected from | f. mediator |
| 7. He said he was very | g. missions |
| 8. He has led humanitarian | h. to become frozen |
| 9. Every conflict | i. with an iron determination |
| 10. we have allowed so many conflicts | j. can be solved |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The former president of Finland Martti Ahtisaari has won the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize. He won it "for his important _____, on several continents and over more than three decades, to resolve international _____. Mt Ahtisaari has worked tirelessly to end conflicts in many of the world's danger _____. He has successfully _____ conflicting sides together to bring peace to Namibia, the Aceh province of Indonesia, Northern Ireland and in Kosovo. A spokesman for Norway's Nobel Committee _____ Ahtisaari as "an outstanding international mediator." He added Ahtisaari has "contributed to a _____ peaceful world and to 'fraternity between nations' in Alfred Nobel's _____. Ex-colleague Gareth Evans said Mr. Ahtisaari "combines charm and good humor with an _____ determination."

described

efforts

more

brought

iron

conflicts

spirit

zones

Mr. Ahtisaari was _____ from a list of 197 nominees for the Peace Prize. He said he was "very pleased and _____" for it. "I hope this will bring positive attention to Finland, and that it tells about our _____ and what is important to us," he said. Ahtisaari's work as a Finnish diplomat, a United Nations _____ and an international mediator has taken him all over the world. He has led humanitarian missions, and helped resolve difficult ethnic, racial and religious _____. He built up a reputation for bringing enemies together and never _____ up. Ahtisaari told the Nobel Foundation: "Every conflict can be solved. I think it's a _____ for the international community that we have allowed so many conflicts to become _____, and we are not making a serious effort to solve them."

giving

society

disputes

grateful

frozen

envoy

selected

disgrace

LISTENING: Listen and fill in the spaces.

The former president of Finland Martti Ahtisaari has won the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize. He won it "for his important _____ continents _____ than three decades, to resolve international conflicts." Mr. Ahtisaari has worked tirelessly _____ in many of the world's danger zones. He has successfully brought conflicting sides together _____ Namibia, the Aceh province of Indonesia, Northern Ireland and in Kosovo. A spokesman for Norway's Nobel Committee described Ahtisaari as "an outstanding international mediator." He added Ahtisaari has "contributed _____ world and to 'fraternity between nations' in Alfred Nobel's spirit." Ex-colleague Gareth Evans said Mr. Ahtisaari "combines charm and good humor _____ determination."

Mr. Ahtisaari was selected _____ 197 nominees for the Peace Prize. He said he was "very pleased and grateful" for it. "I hope this _____ attention to Finland, and that it tells about our society and what _____," he said. Ahtisaari's work as a Finnish diplomat, a United Nations envoy and an international mediator has taken _____ world. He has led humanitarian missions, and helped resolve difficult ethnic, racial and _____. He built up a reputation for bringing enemies together and never giving up. Ahtisaari told the Nobel Foundation: "Every _____ solved. I think it's a disgrace for the international community that we have allowed so many conflicts _____, and we are not making a serious effort to solve them."

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'peace' and 'prize'.

peace	prize
--------------	--------------

- 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">• several• tirelessly• sides• spokesman• nations• iron	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• list• positive• diplomat• ethnic• enemies• frozen
---	--

STUDENT PEACE SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about peace 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.

WORLD PEACE DISCUSSION

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

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'peace'?
- c) Do you think the world will ever be at peace?
- d) Do you think Martti Ahtisaari is a good choice to be Nobel Peace Prize winner?
- e) What do you know about previous winners?
- f) Do you think solving international conflicts is a good job?
- g) Are you good at mediating between people who are arguing?
- h) What do you know about the Nobel prizes and Alfred Nobel?
- i) Do you have iron determination?
- j) What do you know about Martti Ahtisaari?

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WORLD PEACE DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Do you know who any of the other 196 nominees were?
- c) Is there someone from your country who deserves a peace prize?
- d) What do you think Finnish people will think about Ahtisaari's prize?
- e) When was the last time you were very pleased and grateful?
- f) Would you like a job that takes you all over the world?
- g) What kind of reputation do you have?
- h) Are you one for never giving up?
- i) Do you agree with Martti Ahtisaari that every conflict can be solved?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Martti Ahtisaari?

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LANGUAGE

The (1) ____ president of Finland Martti Ahtisaari has won the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize. He won it "for his important efforts, on several continents and over more than three decades, to (2) ____ international conflicts." Mt Ahtisaari has worked tirelessly to end conflicts in many of the world's danger zones. He has successfully (3) ____ conflicting sides together to bring peace to Namibia, the Aceh province of Indonesia, Northern Ireland and in Kosovo. A spokesman for Norway's Nobel Committee described Ahtisaari (4) ____ "an outstanding international mediator." He added Ahtisaari has "contributed (5) ____ a more peaceful world and to 'fraternity between nations' in Alfred Nobel's spirit." Ex-colleague Gareth Evans said Mr. Ahtisaari "combines charm and (6) ____ humor with an iron determination."

Mr. Ahtisaari was selected from a list of 197 nominees (7) ____ the Peace Prize. He said he was "very pleased and (8) ____" for it. "I hope this will bring positive attention to Finland, and that it tells about our society and what is important to us," he said. Ahtisaari's work as a Finnish diplomat, a United Nations (9) ____ and an international mediator has taken him all over the world. He has led humanitarian missions, and helped resolve difficult ethnic, racial and religious disputes. He built (10) ____ a reputation for bringing enemies together and never giving up. Ahtisaari told the Nobel Foundation: "Every conflict can be solved. I think it's a (11) ____ for the international community that we have allowed so many conflicts to become (12) ____, and we are not making a serious effort to solve them."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) former | (b) farmer | (c) firmer | (d) framer |
| 2. | (a) soluble | (b) solution | (c) resolve | (d) resolution |
| 3. | (a) bringing | (b) brings | (c) bought | (d) brought |
| 4. | (a) was | (b) as | (c) is | (d) be |
| 5. | (a) so | (b) by | (c) at | (d) to |
| 6. | (a) right | (b) well | (c) good | (d) noble |
| 7. | (a) of | (b) for | (c) from | (d) fro |
| 8. | (a) grateful | (b) great | (c) greatly | (d) gratitude |
| 9. | (a) envoy | (b) convoy | (c) convey | (d) decoy |
| 10. | (a) over | (b) next to | (c) up | (d) in |
| 11. | (a) disgruntled | (b) disguise | (c) disgusting | (d) disgrace |
| 12. | (a) melted | (b) frozen | (c) snowed in | (d) iced over |

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 the Nobel Foundation and Alfred Nobel. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. LAUREATES: Make a poster about some of the previous Nobel Peace Laureates. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. MEDIATION: Write a magazine article about Martti Ahtisaari. Include imaginary interviews with him and some of the people he has mediated with.

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. DIARY / JOURNAL: Write about the conflicts (tiny or big) you encounter in a normal day. How did they make you feel? How did you resolve them? Read your entry to your classmates in the next lesson.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to Martti Ahtisaari. Ask him three questions about receiving the Nobel Peace Prize. Give him three suggestions on what he should do next. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

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

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----|-------------|
| 1. | former | a. | ex- |
| 2. | several | b. | a number of |
| 3. | resolve | c. | sort out |
| 4. | fraternity | d. | friendship |
| 5. | determination | e. | willpower |
| 6. | nominees | f. | candidates |
| 7. | envoy | g. | ambassador |
| 8. | reputation | h. | good name |
| 9. | disgrace | i. | shame |
| 10. | effort | j. | attempt |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | | | |
|-----|---|----|----------------------------|
| 1. | Mt Ahtisaari has worked tirelessly to | a. | end conflicts |
| 2. | He has successfully brought conflicting sides | b. | together |
| 3. | an outstanding international | c. | mediator |
| 4. | fraternity between | d. | nations |
| 5. | Ahtisaari combines charm and good humor | e. | with an iron determination |
| 6. | selected from | f. | a list of 197 nominees |
| 7. | He said he was very | g. | pleased and grateful |
| 8. | He has led humanitarian | h. | missions |
| 9. | Every conflict | i. | can be solved |
| 10. | we have allowed so many conflicts | j. | to become frozen |

GAP FILL:

Martti Ahtisaari wins Nobel Peace Prize

The former president of Finland Martti Ahtisaari has won the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize. He won it "for his important **efforts**, on several continents and over more than three decades, to resolve international **conflicts**." Mt Ahtisaari has worked tirelessly to end conflicts in many of the world's danger **zones**. He has successfully **brought** conflicting sides together to bring peace to Namibia, the Aceh province of Indonesia, Northern Ireland and in Kosovo. A spokesman for Norway's Nobel Committee **described** Ahtisaari as "an outstanding international mediator." He added Ahtisaari has "contributed to a **more** peaceful world and to 'fraternity between nations' in Alfred Nobel's **spirit**." Ex-colleague Gareth Evans said Mr. Ahtisaari "combines charm and good humor with an **iron** determination."

Mr. Ahtisaari was **selected** from a list of 197 nominees for the Peace Prize. He said he was "very pleased and **grateful**" for it. "I hope this will bring positive attention to Finland, and that it tells about our **society** and what is important to us," he said. Ahtisaari's work as a Finnish diplomat, a United Nations **envoy** and an international mediator has taken him all over the world. He has led humanitarian missions, and helped resolve difficult ethnic, racial and religious **disputes**. He built up a reputation for bringing enemies together and never **giving** up. Ahtisaari told the Nobel Foundation: "Every conflict can be solved. I think it's a **disgrace** for the international community that we have allowed so many conflicts to become **frozen**, and we are not making a serious effort to solve them."

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - a 2 - c 3 - d 4 - b 5 - d 6 - c 7 - b 8 - a 9 - a 10 - c 11 - d 12 - b