

# NEWS ENGLISH LESSONS.com

## Belgium bans the burqa

**MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:**

<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100502-burqa.html>

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**ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.**

**2nd May, 2010**

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100502-burqa.html>

Belgium's government has passed a new law that bans women from wearing a burqa. This is the veil worn by many Muslim women. The new law means Muslim women can no longer wear the veil in public. They can receive a \$34 fine or a week in prison if they cover their face. The whole world is watching to see if other European countries copy Belgium. Perhaps France will be next. It has talked about banning the veil for many months. French President Nicolas Sarkozy has been very clear about this, saying: "The burqa has no place in France."

Belgium's decision has made Muslims around the world very angry. They say white, Christian, European governments are picking on them. European countries always say freedom of religion is very important, but now Belgium has banned a part of religious dress. Belgian politicians say they are defending women's rights. In fact, the opposite is happening. Belgium's new law will only cause great harm to race relations. If the USA created a similar law, European governments would quickly say America is bad.

# PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100502-burqa.html>

**Match the following phrases from the article.**

## Paragraph 1

- |                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. passed                | a. a \$34 fine               |
| 2. the veil              | b. wear the veil in public   |
| 3. women can no longer   | c. clear about this          |
| 4. They can receive      | d. a new law                 |
| 5. The whole world       | e. worn by many Muslim women |
| 6. Sarkozy has been very | f. is watching               |

## Paragraph 2

- |                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. governments are picking    | a. happening                  |
| 2. freedom of religion is     | b. on them                    |
| 3. a part of                  | c. quickly say America is bad |
| 4. the opposite is            | d. relations                  |
| 5. cause great harm to race   | e. very important             |
| 6. European governments would | f. religious dress            |

# LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100502-burqa.html>

Belgium's government has \_\_\_\_\_ that bans women from wearing a burqa. This is \_\_\_\_\_ many Muslim women. The new law means Muslim women can no longer wear the veil in public. They can \_\_\_\_\_ or a week in prison if they \_\_\_\_\_. The whole world is watching to see if other European countries copy Belgium. Perhaps France \_\_\_\_\_. It has talked about banning the veil for many months. French President Nicolas Sarkozy has been very \_\_\_\_\_, saying: "The burqa has no place in France."

Belgium's decision has made Muslims \_\_\_\_\_ very angry. They say white, Christian, European governments are \_\_\_\_\_. European countries always say freedom of religion is very important, but now Belgium has \_\_\_\_\_ of religious dress. Belgian politicians say they are defending women's rights. In \_\_\_\_\_ is happening. Belgium is stopping women from dressing how they want to. Belgium's new law will only \_\_\_\_\_ to race relations. If the USA created a similar law, European governments \_\_\_\_\_ America is bad.

# MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100502-burqa.html>

Belgium's government has (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a new law that bans women from wearing a burqa. This is the veil worn by many Muslim women. The new law (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Muslim women can no longer wear the veil (3) \_\_\_\_\_ public. They can receive a \$34 fine or a week in prison if they cover their face. The whole world is watching to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ if other European countries copy Belgium. Perhaps France will be next. It has talked about banning the veil for many months. French President Nicolas Sarkozy has been very (5) \_\_\_\_\_ about this, saying: "The burqa has no place in France."

Belgium's decision has made Muslims around the world very angry. They say white, Christian, European governments are (6) \_\_\_\_\_ on them. European countries always (7) \_\_\_\_\_ freedom of religion is very important, but now Belgium has banned a part of religious (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Belgian politicians say they are defending women's rights. In fact, the opposite is happening. Belgium's new law will only cause great (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to race relations. If the USA created a (10) \_\_\_\_\_ law, European governments would quickly say America is bad.

## Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- |     |             |              |                |
|-----|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) past    | (b) passed   | (c) passing    |
| 2.  | (a) means   | (b) meaning  | (c) Mean       |
| 3.  | (a) in      | (b) on       | (c) off        |
| 4.  | (a) look    | (b) view     | (c) see        |
| 5.  | (a) clearly | (b) clear    | (c) cleared    |
| 6.  | (a) picking | (b) sticking | (c) licking    |
| 7.  | (a) speak   | (b) talk     | (c) say        |
| 8.  | (a) dress   | (b) dressing | (c) dresses    |
| 9.  | (a) harmful | (b) harm     | (c) harms      |
| 10. | (a) same    | (b) similar  | (c) similarity |

# SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100502-burqa.html>

**Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.**

## Paragraph 1

1. dpssae a new law
2. wear the veil in pculib
3. a week in ronpsi
4. The owleh world
5. very rcale about this
6. no pcela in France

## Paragraph 2

7. Belgium's iecsdnio
8. kcgpnii on them
9. religious rdess
10. sueac great harm
11. race eaortlsn
12. created a msilira law

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100502-burqa.html>

## Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) important, but now Belgium has banned a part of religious dress. Belgian politicians say the burqa represents
- ( ) European governments are picking on them. European countries always say freedom of religion is very
- ( ) if other European countries copy Belgium. Perhaps France will be next. It has talked about banning the veil for many
- ( ) public. They can receive a \$34 fine or a week in prison if they cover their face. The whole world is watching to see
- ( ) Belgium's decision has made Muslims around the world very angry. They say white, Christian,
- ( ) law will only cause great harm to race relations. If the USA created a similar law, European governments would quickly say America is bad.
- ( ) by many Muslim women. The new law means Muslim women can no longer wear the veil in
- ( ) terrorism in some way. This idea is dangerous and spreads the idea that Muslim women are terrorists. Belgium's new
- ( **1** ) Belgium's government has passed a new law that bans women from wearing a burqa. This is the veil worn
- ( ) months. French President Nicolas Sarkozy has been very clear about this, saying: "The burqa has no place in France."

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100502-burqa.html>

**With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.**

1. government Belgium's law new a passed has.

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2. can wear in Women longer veil no the public.

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3. a receive can They fine \$34.

---

4. world whole The watching is.

---

5. has Sarkozy this about clear very been.

---

6. picking them European are on governments.

---

7. important Freedom religion very of is.

---

8. rights women's defending are they say Politicians.

---

9. Cause harm race great to relations.

---

10. bad is America say quickly would Governments.

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## **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. \_\_\_\_\_

# WRITING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100502-burqa.html>

**Write about the veil for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.**

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# 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. THE VEIL:** Search the Internet and find more information about the veil. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about the veil. Include imaginary an interview with women in Belgium who have been banned from wearing it and the Belgian leader. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. 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.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to Belgium's leader. Ask him three questions about the veil. Give him three of your opinions on his country's banning of the veil. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.