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Muslim countries pressure Syria

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

http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1112/111201-muslim_countries.html

IN THIS LESSON:

The Reading / Tapescript	2
Phrase Match	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
Multiple Choice	5
Spelling	6
Put the Text Back Together	7
Scrambled Sentences	8
Discussion	9
Writing	10
Homework	11

ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

1st December, 2011

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1112/111201-muslim_countries.html

Syria is facing more international pressure to end the attacks on its people. First the Arab League introduced tough penalties on Syria's government; now Turkey has joined in. On Wednesday, the Arab League put a travel ban on 17 top Syrian officials, including members of President Bashar Assad's family. Turkey announced yesterday it would stop all trade across its border with Syria. The USA and Europe have also taken actions to hurt Syria's economy and stop money getting to President Assad.

The Syrian government is showing no signs of slowing down its attacks on pro-democracy groups. The United Nations says over 3,500 citizens have been killed since March. Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Al- Muallem said the actions taken against his country were "economic war". Syria expert Peter Harling said the actions taken by Syria's neighbours are working because its economy is "falling apart". He said: "There is a shortage of cooking gas and heating oil, medicine, milk powder, and...power cuts - even in the capital, Damascus."

PHRASE MATCH

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1112/111201-muslim_countries.html

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Syria is facing more international | a. penalties |
| 2. introduced tough | b. has joined in |
| 3. now Turkey | c. its border |
| 4. travel | d. economy |
| 5. stop all trade across | e. ban |
| 6. actions to hurt Syria's | f. pressure |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. showing no signs | a. groups |
| 2. pro-democracy | b. powder |
| 3. 3,500 citizens | c. Damascus |
| 4. falling | d. of slowing down |
| 5. milk | e. apart |
| 6. in the capital, | f. have been killed |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1112/111201-muslim_countries.html

Syria _____ international pressure to end the attacks on its people. First the Arab League introduced _____ Syria's government; now Turkey has joined in. On Wednesday, the Arab League _____ on 17 top Syrian officials, _____ of President Bashar Assad's family. Turkey announced yesterday it would _____ its border with Syria. The USA and Europe have also taken _____ Syria's economy and stop money getting to President Assad.

The Syrian government is _____ of slowing down its attacks on _____ groups. The United Nations says over 3,500 citizens have been killed since March. Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Al- Muallem said the actions taken against his country were "_____". Syria expert Peter Harling said the actions taken by Syria's neighbours are working because its economy is "_____". He said: "There _____ cooking gas and heating oil, medicine, milk powder, and...power cuts - _____, Damascus."

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1112/111201-muslim_countries.html

Syria is (1) _____ more international pressure to end the attacks on (2) _____ people. First the Arab League introduced tough penalties on Syria's government; now Turkey has joined (3) _____. On Wednesday, the Arab League put a travel ban on 17 top Syrian officials, (4) _____ members of President Bashar Assad's family. Turkey announced yesterday it would stop all trade across its (5) _____ with Syria. The USA and Europe have also taken actions to (6) _____ Syria's economy and stop money getting to President Assad.

The Syrian government is showing (7) _____ signs of slowing down its attacks on (8) _____-democracy groups. The United Nations says over 3,500 citizens have been killed since March. Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Al-Muallem said the actions taken (9) _____ his country were "economic war". Syria (10) _____ Peter Harling said the actions taken by Syria's neighbours are working because its economy is "falling (11) _____". He said: "There is a shortage of cooking gas and heating oil, medicine, milk powder, and...power cuts - (12) _____ in the capital, Damascus."

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) facing | (b) face | (c) faced |
| 2. | (a) it's | (b) its | (c) it |
| 3. | (a) on | (b) out | (c) in |
| 4. | (a) via | (b) including | (c) addition |
| 5. | (a) edge | (b) rim | (c) border |
| 6. | (a) painful | (b) hurt | (c) ouch |
| 7. | (a) no | (b) non | (c) not |
| 8. | (a) pro | (b) pre | (c) per |
| 9. | (a) for | (b) back | (c) against |
| 10. | (a) expert | (b) expel | (c) expect |
| 11. | (a) part | (b) apart | (c) partly |
| 12. | (a) event | (b) ever | (c) even |

SPELLING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1112/111201-muslim_countries.html

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. ifgcan more international pressure
2. end the aacktst on its people
3. introduced ohugt penalties
4. 17 top Syrian foasiflci
5. stop all trade across its erordb
6. hurt Syria's neomyc

Paragraph 2

7. sinwogh no signs of slowing down
8. 3,500 ceniitsz have been killed
9. Syrian roingFe Minister
10. Syria eetrxp
11. falling rapta
12. the tpalaic, Damascus

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1112/111201-muslim_countries.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () The Syrian government is showing no signs of slowing down its attacks on pro-democracy
- () heating oil, medicine, milk powder, and...power cuts - even in the capital, Damascus."
- () a travel ban on 17 top Syrian officials, including members of President Bashar Assad's
- () introduced tough penalties on Syria's government; now Turkey has joined in. On Wednesday, the Arab League put
- () groups. The United Nations says over 3,500 citizens have been killed since
- () family. Turkey announced yesterday it would stop all trade across its
- () March. Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Al- Muallem said the actions taken against his country were "economic
- () working because its economy is "falling apart". He said: "There is a shortage of cooking gas and
- (**1**) Syria is facing more international pressure to end the attacks on its people. First the Arab League
- () war". Syria expert Peter Harling said the actions taken by Syria's neighbours are
- () border with Syria. The USA and Europe have also taken actions to
- () hurt Syria's economy and stop money getting to President Assad.

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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

1. pressure more is international facing Syria.

2. Tough government Syria's on penalties

3. top travel Syrian ban officials on 17 A.

4. economy Taken to Syria's actions hurt.

5. getting President money to Assad Stop.

6. slowing Showing down no its signs attacks of.

7. have been killed since March Over 3,500 citizens.

8. Syria's by taken Actions neighbours.

9. apart falling is economy Its.

10. of shortage a is There gas cooking.

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/1112/111201-muslim_countries.html

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

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. SYRIA: Search the Internet and find more information about Syria. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Syria and its neighbours. Include an imaginary interview with a Syrian. 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 a Syria expert. Ask him/her three questions about Syria. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.