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Samoa to skip December 30

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

http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1112/111229-december_30.html

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29th December, 2011

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1112/111229-december_30.html

The South Pacific island nation of Samoa will skip December the 30th this year. The island's prime minister has decided to jump across the International Date Line. It is currently to the east of this line, which means it is one of the last countries in the world to see the sun set. The move over the date line means it will be the first country to see the sun rise. At midnight on Thursday, December 29, Samoa's calendar will leap straight to Saturday, December 31. Samoans will not see Friday, December 30.

The shift is so it can have better relations with its two biggest trading partners, Australia and New Zealand. Currently, Samoa is open for business on Fridays, but Australia and New Zealand are closed because it's their Saturday. Similarly, while Samoa closes on Sunday, it is Monday and business as usual for Australia and New Zealand. Tourism companies are happy. They can now offer tourists double New Year's Eves, birthdays and anniversaries – one in Samoa, the other the next day in American Samoa, which is still east of the date line.

PHRASE MATCH

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1112/111229-december_30.html

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. The South Pacific island | a. the sun rise |
| 2. jump across the International | b. December 30. |
| 3. east of | c. Date Line |
| 4. the first country to see | d. nation of Samoa |
| 5. Samoa's calendar will leap straight | e. this line |
| 6. Samoans will not see Friday, | f. to Saturday |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. have better | a. business |
| 2. its two biggest | b. relations |
| 3. open for | c. New Year's Eves |
| 4. business as | d. next day |
| 5. offer tourists double | e. trading partners |
| 6. the other the | f. usual |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1112/111229-december_30.html

The South Pacific _____ Samoa will skip December the 30th this year. The island's prime _____ to jump across the International Date Line. It is currently to the _____, which means it is one of the last countries in the world to see the sun set. The _____ line means it will be the first country to _____. At midnight on Thursday, December 29, Samoa's calendar will leap straight to Saturday, December 31. Samoans _____, December 30.

The shift is so it can _____ with its two biggest _____, Australia and New Zealand. Currently, Samoa is _____ on Fridays, but Australia and New Zealand are closed because it's their Saturday. Similarly, while Samoa closes on Sunday, it is Monday and _____ for Australia and New Zealand. Tourism companies are happy. They can now _____ New Year's Eves, birthdays and anniversaries – one in Samoa, the other the next day in American Samoa, which is _____ date line.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1112/111229-december_30.html

The South Pacific island (1) _____ of Samoa will skip December the 30th this year. The island's prime minister has (2) _____ to jump across the International Date Line. It is currently to the east (3) _____ this line, which means it is one of the last countries in the world to see the sun (4) _____. The move over the date line means it will be the first country to see the sun rise. At midnight on Thursday, December 29, Samoa's calendar will (5) _____ straight to Saturday, December 31. Samoans will not (6) _____ Friday, December 30.

The shift is so it can have better relations (7) _____ its two biggest trading partners, Australia and New Zealand. Currently, Samoa is open (8) _____ business on Fridays, but Australia and New Zealand are (9) _____ because it's their Saturday. Similarly, while Samoa closes on Sunday, it is Monday and business (10) _____ usual for Australia and New Zealand. Tourism companies are happy. They can now offer tourists (11) _____ New Year's Eves, birthdays and anniversaries – one in Samoa, the other the next day in American Samoa, which is (12) _____ east of the date line.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) nations | (b) nation | (c) nationality |
| 2. | (a) decided | (b) decision | (c) decides |
| 3. | (a) of | (b) for | (c) by |
| 4. | (a) sit | (b) sat | (c) set |
| 5. | (a) lamp | (b) leap | (c) lisp |
| 6. | (a) saw | (b) seeing | (c) see |
| 7. | (a) with | (b) of | (c) at |
| 8. | (a) by | (b) on | (c) for |
| 9. | (a) closing | (b) closed | (c) close |
| 10. | (a) was | (b) as | (c) has |
| 11. | (a) duo | (b) twice | (c) double |
| 12. | (a) still | (b) close | (c) motionless |

SPELLING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1112/111229-december_30.html

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. South Pacific linasd nation
2. prime mnireits
3. tcyrunlre to the east
4. one of the last consuiret
5. Samoa's Inrdaaec
6. leap trhaitsg to Saturday

Paragraph 2

7. better snaleitro
8. two biggest ndtgira partners
9. open for iesubsns
10. muiostr companies
11. They can now offer tourists buolde
12. bhrsaityd and anniversaries

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1112/111229-december_30.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () minister has decided to jump across the international date line. It is currently to the east
- () partners, Australia and New Zealand. Currently, Samoa is open for business
- () over the date line means it will be the first country to see the sun rise. At midnight
- () The shift is so it can have better relations with its two biggest trading
- () companies are happy. They can now offer tourists double New Year's Eves, birthdays and
- () on Thursday, December 29, Samoa's calendar will leap straight to
- () anniversaries – one in Samoa, the other the next day in American Samoa, which is still east of the date line.
- (**1**) The South Pacific island nation of Samoa will skip December the 30th this year. The island's prime
- () of this line, which means it is one of the last countries in the world to see the sun set. The move
- () Saturday, December 31. Samoans will not see Friday, December 30.
- () closes on Sunday, it is Monday and business as usual for Australia and New Zealand. Tourism
- () on Fridays, but Australia and New Zealand are closed because it's their Saturday. Similarly, while Samoa

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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

1. Samoa of nation island Pacific South The.

2. Line across the Decided International to Date jump.

3. currently east line is the this It to of.

4. last The set sun the see to world the in countries.

5. calendar Samoa's Saturday to straight leap will.

6. The so have is can relations shift it better.

7. business on Fridays Samoa . is open for

8. usual as Business Australia for.

9. New now double Eves can tourists Year's They offer.

10. date east the line Still of.

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/1112/111229-december_30.html

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

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Samoa's shift. Include an imaginary interview with Samoans. 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 calendar expert. Ask him/her three questions about calendars. Give him/her three of your opinions on them. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.