

Two dead, 10 injured in Cairo attacks (Sun 1 May, 2005)

WARM-UPS

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about: Cairo / Egypt / terrorism / suicide bombings / foreign tourists... For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

EGYPT: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with Egypt. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

TERROR THREAT: In pairs / groups, interview each other about the threat from terrorism. Do you worry about the possibilities of terrorist attacks? Do you think about it every day? Have authorities in the town / city in which you live of study taken any action to prevent terrorist attacks? Do you worry about going to airports or flying on airplanes? Are you suspicious if you see an unattended bag on the train or at the train station. Change partners and report your interview findings to your new partner.

IS THIS YOU? Read one of the comments below to your partner and follow the comment with the question, "Is this you?" Your partner can use one of the following responses before providing more details:

"Yes. That's me through and through."

"Yes. That's me down to a T."

"Yes. That's most definitely me."

"Yes. That's me. That's me."

"Yes. That's me sometimes."

"Hmmm... That's not really me."

"No. That's not me. Not at all"

COMMENTS:

- a. I'm on a constant state of alert. I worry about terrorism all the time.
- b. I never worry about terrorism. It's a waste of energy.
- c. If I see an unattended bag at the train station, I move away from it"
- d. I get suspicious when I see foreigners in groups talking to each other.
- e. Terrorists or no terrorists, I'll go where I want in the world.
- f. I check every Internet site for safety alerts before deciding where to go on vacation.
- g. I like adventure. I want to visit the places other people think are dangerous.
- h. I'm 100% safe. Terrorism will never affect my life.
- i. Terrorists don't frighten me. I'll wear a T-Shirt with my country's flag on it anywhere in the world.
- j. At the airport I can't stop looking at suitcases and wondering what's inside.

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PRE-READING

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

TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true or false:

- a. Two separate incidents have killed two people and injured ten in Cairo T / F
- b. A suspected terrorist detonated explosives strapped to his body. T / F
- c. The suspected terrorist was carrying no ID. T / F
- d. The man's fiancée and sister shot at a tourist bus two hours later. T / F
- e. The man's fiancée shot and killed a member of the security forces. T / F
- f. The two who died (the man and his fiancée) belonged to an orchestra. T / F
- g. Egyptian authorities are not too worried about these attacks. T / F
- h. Egyptian authorities have imprisoned 16,000 suspected militants. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | | |
|----|--------------|-------------|
| a. | incidents | respite |
| b. | chased | attackers |
| c. | detonating | setting off |
| d. | perpetrated | wave |
| e. | assailants | committed |
| f. | orchestrated | occurrences |
| g. | resurgence | wiped out |
| h. | string | rebirth |
| i. | decimated | pursued |
| j. | lull | coordinated |

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

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a. | terrorism | perpetrated the bazaar attack |
| b. | detonating | off the area |
| c. | the bomber who | fire on a tourist bus |
| d. | opened | orchestrated |
| e. | One of the assailants was | in violence |
| f. | cordoned | explosives |
| g. | these attacks are being | Egypt's tourism industry |
| h. | sparked | shot dead by the police |
| i. | almost decimated | charges |
| j. | a lull | fears |

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READING:

WHICH WORD: Circle the word in each pair of italics that is correct.

Two dead, 10 injured in Cairo attacks

BNE: Two separate attacks have killed two people and injured at least ten more in the centre of Cairo, Egypt. In one *accident* / *incident* a man wanted by Egyptian authorities on terrorism charges blew himself *up* / *down* after detonating explosives strapped to his body. Ehab Yousri Yassin was being chased by police at the time in *link* / *connection* to a bomb blast at the Khan al-Khalili bazaar on April 7 in which the bomber and three foreign tourists died. He was carrying the identification card of the bomber who perpetrated the *bazaar* / *bizarre* attack.

The other attack *occurred* / *incurred* two hours later and was carried out by the fiancée and the sister of the man killed earlier. The two women, both in their early twenties, *closed* / *opened* fire on a tourist bus outside Cairo's Egyptian Museum. One of the assailants was shot dead by the police, who quickly cordoned *on* / *off* the area for fear of further attacks. It *reveals* / *appears* these attacks are being orchestrated within a tight circle of family and friends and are not part of a wider network.

These and other recent attacks have *sparked* / *sparkled* fears there may be a resurgence of a terrorism campaign against foreign tourists. The 1990s saw a *rope* / *string* of high profile attacks against foreigners and almost *decimated* / *decimalized* Egypt's tourism industry. There had been a lull in violence since an Egyptian *crackdown* / *meltdown* resulted in the imprisonment of 16,000 suspected militants. In October, two simultaneous bombings on Sinai resorts, which killed 34 people ended, that *clam* / *calm*.

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DISCUSSION

- a. What did you think after reading this article?
- b. Can you remember your reaction to reading the headline?
- c. Do you think attacks of this kind will ever stop?
- d. What feelings do you think motivate people to become a suicide bomber?
- e. What do you think drives young women to shoot at foreign tourists?
- f. Would this attack make you think twice about going to Cairo?
- g. Is Egypt on your list of countries you must visit?
- h. Why do you think Egyptians would turn to terror?
- i. Do you ever worry about your own safety?
- j. Do you think about terrorism or bombs at airports or busy train stations?
- k. Have you ever witnessed any form of terrorism?
- l. What do you think are the key things that need to be done to end this kind of violence?
- m. Is George W. Bush winning the war on terror?
- n. Do you choose your travel destinations with terrorist threats in mind?
- o. Has your country experienced terrorism?
- p. Do you think you have become desensitized to news of terrorist attacks?
- q. What do you think of the words “martyr”, “freedom fighter” and “liberator”, used by militant groups use to describe suicide bombers?
- r. Did you like this discussion?
- s. 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 one of the world’s terrorist groups. Share your findings with your class next lesson.

3. WAR ON TERROR: There are many terrorist groups around the world, operating for many different reasons. Write a short article describing one of these groups and what you think needs to be done to end its activities. Present your article to the class in your next lesson.

4. 9/11: Write your opinion on whether the world is a safer place since 9/11. Discuss this with your classmates in your next lesson.

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TEXT:

WHICH WORD:

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These and other recent attacks have *sparked* fears there may be a resurgence of a terrorism campaign against foreign tourists. The 1990s saw a *string* of high profile attacks against foreigners and almost *decimated* Egypt's tourism industry. There had been a lull in violence since an Egyptian *crackdown* resulted in the imprisonment of 16,000 suspected militants. In October, two simultaneous bombings on Sinai resorts, which killed 34 people, ended that *calm*.