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Level 3

Police arrest a coconut

9th September, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130909-coconuts.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130909-coconuts.html>

Police officers in the Maldives have arrested a coconut. It had Arabic writing on it. It was a "sura" (a verse from the Koran) and local people got worried about it. They said it was full of black magic and that someone was using it to try and change the results of an election. Police took the coconut to a local police station because it was a "suspicious fruit". They thought the small fruit might affect how people voted in Saturday's national election. People on the island of Guraidhoo believe black magic can stop voters from voting, or make them vote for someone else. The police contacted a "ruqyah" (a good magician), who decided the coconut was a fake and contained no black magic.

A police official said: "It seems like it was a joke. Just a prank, so that people will become aware, understand the message, and not do it again." The Huffington Post website claims that black magic can have a big effect on life in the Maldives. In July, a school refused to let a voting box into the building. Teachers were worried it would make students ill. In 2012, Abdulla bin Mohamed Ibrahim, a religious leader in the Maldives, asked the government to make black magic illegal. He said it was a sin to practice black magic. He said it caused a lot of problems for many families and that it was time to do something about it. Mr Ibrahim said black magic has become a major social issue in his country.

Sources: <http://stream.aljazeera.com/story/201309062230-0023033>
<http://www.haveeru.com.mv/news/39662>
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/06/police-arrest-coconut-maldives-presidential-election_n_3880700.html?utm_hp_ref=world&ir=World

WARM-UPS

1. COCONUTS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about coconuts. Change partners often 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.

police officers / arrest / coconut / results / election / fruit / island / magic / voting / prank / message / website / teachers / religious leader / sins / problems / social issue

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

3. USES OF A COCONUT: What can we use coconuts for? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Use?	How?
Hobby		
Food		
Drink		
Building		
Medicine		
Other _____		

4. NAME: Students A **strongly** believe the name "coconut" should change because it isn't a nut; Students B **strongly** believe that's stupid. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. FRUIT: Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- coconuts
- pineapples
- papayas
- bananas
- apples
- strawberries
- kiwi fruit
- grapes

6. MAGIC: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "magic". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130909-coconuts.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| a. Police arrested a person dressed up like a coconut. | T / F |
| b. Someone tried to use a coconut to change the results of an election. | T / F |
| c. Someone wrote something on the coconut in English. | T / F |
| d. A good magician said the coconut contained no black magic. | T / F |
| e. A website said black magic affected life in the Maldives. | T / F |
| f. In 2012, a voting box in a school made students ill. | T / F |
| g. A religious leader asked the government to make black magic illegal. | T / F |
| h. The leader said black magic wasn't such a big problem in his country. | T / F |

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

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. full | a. allow |
| 2. change | b. problem |
| 3. suspicious | c. imitation |
| 4. verse | d. trick |
| 5. fake | e. dishonest-looking |
| 6. joke | f. filled |
| 7. let | g. unlawful |
| 8. ill | h. affect |
| 9. illegal | i. sick |
| 10. issue | j. poem |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. They said it was full | a. results of an election |
| 2. try and change the | b. effect on life |
| 3. affect how | c. it was a joke |
| 4. make them vote | d. no black magic |
| 5. the coconut was a fake and contained | e. social issue in his country |
| 6. It seems like | f. students ill |
| 7. black magic can have a big | g. of black magic |
| 8. worried it would make | h. practise black magic |
| 9. it was a sin to | i. for someone else |
| 10. black magic has become a major | j. people voted |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130909-coconuts.html>

Police officers in the Maldives have arrested a coconut. It had Arabic writing on it. It was a "sura" (a (1) _____ from the Koran) and (2) _____ people got worried about it. They said it was full of black magic and that someone was using it to try and change the (3) _____ of an election. Police took the coconut to a local police station because it was a "(4) _____ fruit". They thought the small fruit might affect how people (5) _____ in Saturday's national election. People on the island of Guraidhoo believe black magic can stop (6) _____ from voting, or make them vote for someone else. The police (7) _____ a "ruqyah" (a good magician), who decided the coconut was a (8) _____ and contained no black magic.

contacted

local

voters

suspicious

verse

fake

results

voted

A police official said: "It seems like it was a (9) _____. Just a prank, so that people will become (10) _____, understand the message, and not do it again." The Huffington Post website claims that black magic can have a big (11) _____ on life in the Maldives. In July, a school refused to let a voting box into the building. Teachers were worried it would make students (12) _____. In 2012, Abdulla bin Mohamed Ibrahim, a (13) _____ leader in the Maldives, asked the government to make black magic illegal. He said it was a (14) _____ to practice black magic. He said it caused a lot of problems for many families and that it was time to do (15) _____ about it. Mr Ibrahim said black magic has become a (16) _____ social issue in his country.

something

effect

aware

religious

major

joke

sin

ill

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130909-coconuts.html>

- 1) They said it was full of _____
 - a. black magical
 - b. black magician
 - c. black magicians
 - d. black magic
- 2) The young coconut had Arabic _____
 - a. writing in it
 - b. writing on it
 - c. writing an it
 - d. writing and it
- 3) how people voted in Saturday's _____
 - a. national elective
 - b. national elections
 - c. national election
 - d. national electing
- 4) stop voters from voting, or make them vote _____
 - a. from someone else
 - b. for someone else
 - c. of someone else
 - d. through someone else
- 5) The police contacted a "ruqyah" (a good magician), who decided the _____
 - a. coconut was a take
 - b. coconut was a fake
 - c. coconut was a lake
 - d. coconut was a make
- 6) The Huffington Post website claims that black magic can have a big _____
 - a. effect on life
 - b. effect on rife
 - c. effect on live
 - d. effect on lives
- 7) Teachers were worried it would _____
 - a. make students ill
 - b. make students will
 - c. make students till
 - d. make students bill
- 8) asked the government to make _____
 - a. black magic legal
 - b. black magic illegals
 - c. black magic illegally
 - d. black magic illegal
- 9) He said it caused a _____
 - a. lot of problems
 - b. rot of problems
 - c. load of problems
 - d. loads of problems
- 10) black magic has become a major social _____ country
 - a. issue in his
 - b. tissue in his
 - c. reissue in his
 - d. issues in his

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130909-coconuts.html>

Police officers in the Maldives (1) _____ coconut. It had Arabic writing on it. It was a "sura" (a verse from the Koran) and local people got worried about it. They (2) _____ black magic and that someone was using it to try and change the results of an election. Police took the coconut (3) _____ station because it was a "suspicious fruit". They thought the small (4) _____ how people voted in Saturday's national election. People on the island of Guraidhoo believe black magic can stop voters (5) _____ voting, or make them vote (6) _____. The police contacted a "ruqyah" (a good magician), who decided the coconut was a fake and contained no black magic.

A police official said: "It (7) _____ a joke. Just a prank, so that people will become aware, understand the message, and not do it again." The Huffington Post (8) _____ black magic can have a big effect on life in the Maldives. In July, a school refused to let a voting (9) _____. Teachers were worried it would make students ill. In 2012, Abdulla bin Mohamed Ibrahim, a religious leader in the Maldives, (10) _____ to make black magic illegal. He said it was a sin to practice black magic. He (11) _____ of problems for many families and that it was time to do something about it. Mr Ibrahim said black magic has become (12) _____ in his country.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130909-coconuts.html>

1. What did people think was in the coconut?

2. What did they think the coconut would change?

3. What language did people use to write on the coconut?

4. On what day did the election take place?

5. Who decided the coconut contained no black magic?

6. What did the police say it seemed like?

7. What website said black magic affected life in the Maldives?

8. What were teachers worried about?

9. What did a religious leader say it was a sin to do in the Maldives?

10. What did the leader say black magic has become?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130909-coconuts.html>

1. What did people think was in the coconut?
 - a) gold
 - b) black magic
 - c) election results
 - d) coconut milk
2. What did they think the coconut would change?
 - a) its shape
 - b) the future
 - c) its taste
 - d) an election
3. What language did people use to write on the coconut?
 - a) Sanskrit
 - b) Hindi
 - c) Arabic
 - d) English
4. On what day did the election take place?
 - a) Saturday
 - b) Sunday
 - c) Monday
 - d) Tuesday
5. Who decided the coconut contained no black magic?
 - a) a police officer
 - b) a magician
 - c) the Maldives' leader
 - d) a coconut farmer
6. What did the police say it seemed like?
 - a) a joke
 - b) a peanut
 - c) a website
 - d) a tree
7. What website said black magic affected life in the Maldives?
 - a) Al Jazeera
 - b) CNN
 - c) Huffington Post
 - d) BBC
8. What were teachers worried about?
 - a) children getting ill
 - b) a coconut disease
 - c) major social issues
 - d) their salaries
9. What did a religious leader say it was a sin to do in the Maldives?
 - a) eat coconuts on Fridays
 - b) have a major social issue
 - c) cut down coconut trees
 - d) black magic
10. What did the leader say black magic has become?
 - a) accepted
 - b) a joke
 - c) a major social issue
 - d) a prank

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130909-coconuts.html>

Role A – Coconut

You think coconuts are the best tropical fruit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their fruit. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): papayas, bananas or pineapples.

Role B – Papaya

You think papayas are the best tropical fruit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their fruit. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): coconuts, bananas or pineapples.

Role C – Banana

You think bananas are the best tropical fruit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their fruit. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): papayas, coconuts or pineapples.

Role D – Pineapple

You think pineapples are the best tropical fruit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their fruit. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): papayas, bananas or coconuts.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130909-coconuts.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'black' and 'magic'.

black	magic
--------------	--------------

- 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">• full• young• verse• how• stop• fake	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• joke• again• refused• ill• sin• major
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

COCONUTS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130909-coconuts.html>

Write five GOOD questions about coconuts 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.

COCONUTS 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 'coconut'?
- c) What do you think about what you read?
- d) Do you like the taste of coconut?
- e) What do you think when you see a beach lined with coconut trees?
- f) Were the Maldives police right to take the coconut to the police station?
- g) Do you believe in black magic?
- h) Do you believe in any kind of magic?
- i) What things can change how people vote?

Police arrest a coconut – 9th September, 2013
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COCONUTS DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) What do you know about coconuts?
- c) What would you do if you saw a "suspicious" fruit?
- d) Why is a coconut called a coconut, when it is not a nut?
- e) Why do you think people believe in black magic?
- f) Should black magic be made illegal?
- g) What's your favourite food or drink that has coconut in it?
- h) How many different ways can you use a coconut?
- i) What questions would you like to ask the arresting police officer?

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. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130909-coconuts.html>

Police officers in the Maldives have (1) _____ a coconut. It had Arabic writing on it. It was a "sura" (a verse from the Koran) and (2) _____ people got worried about it. They said it was full of black magic and that someone was (3) _____ it to try and change the results of an election. Police took the coconut to a local police station because it was a "(4) _____ fruit". They thought the small fruit might affect how people voted in Saturday's national election. People on the island of Guraidhoo believe black magic can stop voters from (5) _____, or make them vote for someone else. The police contacted a "ruqyah" (a good magician), who decided the coconut was a fake and contained (6) _____ black magic.

A police official said: "It seems like it was a joke. Just a prank, so that people will become (7) _____, understand the message, and not do it again." The Huffington Post website claims that black magic can have a big effect on (8) _____ in the Maldives. In July, a school (9) _____ to let a voting box into the building. Teachers were worried it would make students ill. In 2012, Abdulla bin Mohamed Ibrahim, a religious leader in the Maldives, (10) _____ the government to make black magic illegal. He said it was a sin to practice black magic. He said it caused a lot of problems for many families and that it was (11) _____ to do something about it. Mr Ibrahim said black magic has become a (12) _____ social issue in his country.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) arrest | (b) arrests | (c) arresting | (d) arrested |
| 2. | (a) near | (b) close | (c) next | (d) local |
| 3. | (a) user | (b) using | (c) users | (d) uses |
| 4. | (a) suspicion | (b) suspiciously | (c) suspicious | (d) suspicions |
| 5. | (a) voting | (b) voted | (c) votes | (d) voters |
| 6. | (a) no | (b) non | (c) not | (d) now |
| 7. | (a) knowledge | (b) understand | (c) comprehension | (d) aware |
| 8. | (a) life | (b) live | (c) lively | (d) lifer |
| 9. | (a) made | (b) refused | (c) recycled | (d) ordered |
| 10. | (a) tell | (b) apologized | (c) asked | (d) whispered |
| 11. | (a) watch | (b) seconds | (c) time | (d) minute |
| 12. | (a) million | (b) most | (c) meant | (d) major |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130909-coconuts.html>

Paragraph 1

1. Police isfforce in the Maldives
2. try and change the ssrletu
3. it was a "ipsscsuuio fruit"
4. Saturday's national elntocej
5. a good iiamgcan
6. oncadneit no black magic

Paragraph 2

7. understand the sgsmaee
8. a school suerefd to let...
9. a glierisou leader
10. a sin to iceratps (UK) aerpccit (USA) black magic
11. it scuade a lot of problems
12. black magic has become a major social iuess

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130909-coconuts.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () from the Koran) and local people got worried about it. They said it was full of black
- () magician), who decided the coconut was a fake and contained no black magic.
- (**1**) Police officers in the Maldives have arrested a coconut. It had Arabic writing on it. It was a "sura" (a verse
- () about it. Mr Ibrahim said black magic has become a major social issue in his country.
- () have a big effect on life in the Maldives. In July, a school refused to let a voting box into the building. Teachers were
- () aware, understand the message, and not do it again." The Huffington Post website claims that black magic can
- () A police official said: "It seems like it was a joke. Just a prank, so that people will become
- () worried it would make students ill. In 2012, Abdulla bin Mohamed Ibrahim, a religious leader
- () magic and that someone was using it to try and change the results of an election. Police took the coconut to a local
- () black magic. He said it caused a lot of problems for many families and that it was time to do something
- () stop voters from voting, or make them vote for someone else. The police contacted a "ruqyah" (a good
- () in the Maldives, asked the government to make black magic illegal. He said it was a sin to practice
- () police station because it was a "suspicious fruit". They thought the small fruit might
- () affect how people voted in Saturday's national election. People on the island of Guraidhoo believe black magic can

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130909-coconuts.html>

1. have coconut officers Maldives a Police the arrested in.

2. full They of said black it magic was.

3. to it Using election an of results the change and try.

4. took to police Police coconut local the a station.

5. magic The coconut was a fake and contained no black.

6. was A it like said: joke." seems official a "It police

7. worried ill it would Teachers make were students.

8. the black Asked make to illegal government magic.

9. families many for problems of lot a caused it said He.

10. magic social has issue become a Black major.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130909-coconuts.html>

Police officers in the Maldives have arrested a coconut. It had Arabic *writing / wrote* on it. It was a "sura" (a verse from the Koran) and *locally / local* people got worried about it. They said it was *filled / full* of black magic and that someone was *using / use* it to try and change *the / a* results of an election. Police took the coconut to a local police station because it was a "suspicious *fruit / fruity*". They thought the small fruit might *effect / affect* how people voted *on / in* Saturday's national election. People on the island of Guraidhoo believe black magic can stop voters from *voting / vote*, or make them vote for someone else. The police contacted a "ruqyah" (a good magician), who decided the coconut was a *fake / flake* and contained no black magic.

A police official said: "It seems like it was a joke. Just a *plank / prank*, so that people will become *beware / aware*, understand the *message / massage*, and not do it again." The Huffington Post website *claiming / claims* that black magic can have a big *affect / effect* on life in the Maldives. In July, a school *refused / refusing* to let a voting box into the building. Teachers *were / was* worried it would make students *will / ill*. In 2012, Abdulla bin Mohamed Ibrahim, a religious leader in the Maldives, asked the government to make black magic illegal. He said it was a *sin / win* to practice black magic. He said it caused a lot of problems for many families and that it was time to do something about it. Mr Ibrahim said black magic has become a major *social / socially* issue in his country.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130909-coconuts.html>

P_l_c_ _ff_c_rs _n th_ M_ld_v_s h_v_ _rr_st_d _
c_c_n_t. _t h_d_r_b_c wr_t ng _n_t. _t w_s _ "s_r_"
(_v_rs_ fr_m th_ K_r_n) _nd l_c_l p__pl_ g_t w_rr__d
_b__t _t. Th_y s__d _t w_s f_ll _f bl_ck m_g_c _nd
th_t s_m__n_ w_s _s ng _t t_ try _nd ch ng_ th_
r_s_lts _f _n_l ct__n. P_l_c_ t_k th_ c_c_n_t t_ _
l_c_l p_l_c_ st_t__n b_c__s_ _t w_s _ "s_sp_c__s
fr__t". Th_y th__ght th_ sm_ll fr__t m_ght _ff_ct h_w
p__pl_ v_t_d _n S_t_r_d_y's n_t__n_l _l ct__n. P__pl_
n th _sl_nd _f G_r__dh__ b_l__v_ bl_ck m_g_c c_n
st_p v_t_rs fr_m v_t ng, _r m_k_ th_m v_t_ fr
s_m__n_ _ls_. Th_ p_l_c_ c_nt ct_d _ "r_qy_h" (_
g__d m_g_c_n), wh_d c_d d th_ c_c_n_t w_s _ f_k_
_nd c_nt__n_d n_ bl_ck m_g_c.

_ p_l_c_ _ff_c__l s__d: "_t s__ms l_k_ _t w_s _ j_k_.
J_st _ pr_nk, s_ th_t p__pl_ w_ll b_c_m_ _w_r_,
_nd rst_nd th_ m_ss_g_, _nd n_t d_ _t _g__n." Th_
H_ff ng_t_n P_st w_bs_t_ cl__ms th_t bl_ck m_g_c c_n
h_v_ _ b_g _ff_ct _n l_f_ _n th_ M_ld_v_s. _n J_ly, _
sch__l r_f_s_d t_ l_t_ v_t ng b_x _nt_ th_ b_ld ng.
T__ch_rs w_r_ w_rr__d _t w__ld m_k_ st_d_n_t_s _ll. _n
2012, _bd_ll_ b_n M_h_m_d _br_h_m, _ r_l_g__s
l__d_r _n th_ M_ld_v_s, _sk_d th_ g_v_rnm_nt t_ m_k_
bl_ck m_g_c _ll_g_l. H_ s__d _t w_s _ s_n_t pr_ct_c_
bl_ck m_g_c. H_ s__d _t c__s_d _l_t _f pr_bl_ms fr
m_ny f_m_l__s _nd th_t _t w_s t_m_ t_d_s_m_th ng
_b__t _t. Mr _br_h_m s__d bl_ck m_g_c h_s b_c_m__
m_j_r_s_c__l__ss__ _n h_s c__ntry.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130909-coconuts.html>

police officers in the maldives have arrested a coconut it had arabic writing on it it was a "sura" (a verse from the koran) and local people got worried about it they said it was full of black magic and that someone was using it to try and change the results of an election police took the coconut to a local police station because it was a "suspicious fruit" they thought the small fruit might affect how people voted in saturday's national election people on the island of guraidhoo believe black magic can stop voters from voting or make them vote for someone else the police contacted a "ruqyah" (a good magician) who decided the coconut was a fake and contained no black magic a police official said "it seems like it was a joke just a prank so that people will become aware understand the message and not do it again" the huffington post website claims that black magic can have a big effect on life in the maldives in july a school refused to let a voting box into the building teachers were worried it would make students ill in 2012 abdulla bin mohamed ibrahim a religious leader in the maldives asked the government to make black magic illegal he said it was a sin to practice black magic he said it caused a lot of problems for many families and that it was time to do something about it mr ibrahim said black magic has become a major social issue in his country

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130909-coconuts.html>

Police officers in the Maldives have arrested a coconut. It had Arabic writing on it. It was a "sura" (a verse from the Koran) and local people got worried about it. They said it was full of black magic and that someone was using it to try and change the results of an election. Police took the coconut to a local police station because it was a "suspicious fruit". They thought the small fruit might affect how people voted in Saturday's national election. People on the island of Guraidho believe black magic can stop voters from voting, or make them vote for someone else. The police contacted a "ruqyah" (a good magician), who decided the coconut was a fake and contained no black magic. A police official said: "It seems like it was a joke. Just a prank, so that people will become aware, understand the message, and not do it again." The Huffington Post website claims that black magic can have a big effect on life in the Maldives. In July, a school refused to let a voting box into the building. Teachers were worried it would make students ill. In 2012, Abdullab bin Mohamed Ibrahim, a religious leader in the Maldives, asked the government to make black magic illegal. He said it was a sin to practice black magic. He said it caused a lot of problems for many families and that it was time to do something about it. Mr Ibrahim said black magic has become a major social issue in his country.

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 coconuts. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. COCONUTS: Make a poster about coconuts and their uses. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. BLACK MAGIC: Write a magazine article about black magic. Include imaginary interviews with people who believe in it and people who don't.

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. 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.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to a coconut expert. Ask him/her three questions about coconuts. Give him/her three of your opinions on them. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. full | a. filled |
| 2. change | b. affect |
| 3. suspicious | c. dishonest-looking |
| 4. verse | d. poem |
| 5. fake | e. imitation |
| 6. joke | f. trick |
| 7. let | g. allow |
| 8. ill | h. sick |
| 9. illegal | i. unlawful |
| 10. issue | j. problem |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Black magic
2. Election results
3. Arabic
4. Saturday
5. A good magician (a "ruqyah")
6. A joke
7. The Huffintom Post
8. That students would get ill
9. Practise black magic
10. A major social issue

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. b 2. d 3. c 4. a 5. b 6. a 7. c 8. a 9. d 10. c

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)