

Canada's Justin Trudeau apologizes for brownface photo

22nd September, 2019



The Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, has apologized for a photo of him in brownface. This is the wearing of face make-up to look like a brown-skinned person. It used to be common in theatrical shows, but it is racist, offensive and

disrespectful. The photo of Mr Trudeau wearing brownface was given to Time magazine on Wednesday. It was taken when he was a teacher in 2001. He was attending an end-of-year school gala that had an Arabian Nights theme. He put on dark brown make-up to dress as a character from Aladdin. Mr Trudeau said he was sorry for the photo. He told reporters: "I shouldn't have done it. I should have known better, but I didn't. And I'm really sorry."

The photo could mean trouble for Mr Trudeau. He is running for re-election as Canada's leader and is neck-and-neck in the polls. His biggest rival told reporters: "Like all Canadians, I was extremely shocked and disappointed when I learned of Justin Trudeau's actions this evening. Wearing brownface is an act of open mockery and racism. It was just as racist in 2001 as it is in 2019." He added: "What Canadians saw this evening was someone...who's not fit to govern this country." Another election hopeful, Jagmeet Singh, said "We see one Mr. Trudeau in public, and I'll be honest with you, he seems really nice - very friendly, very warm....But behind closed doors, he seems like he's a different Mr. Trudeau."

Sources: cnn.com / torontosun.com / vancouver.sun.com

Writing

Canada's leader should step down because of the brownface photo. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

apologized / brownface / make-up / theatrical / disrespectful / gala / character / sorry / trouble / re-election / polls / disappointed / racism / evening / in public / closed doors

True / False

- a) Justin Trudeau is the President of Canada. T / F
- b) The article said brownface used to be common in theatrical shows. T / F
- c) A photo of Mr Trudeau in brownface was given to Vogue magazine. T / F
- d) Mr Trudeau dressed up as the character Aladdin. T / F
- e) The article said Mr Trudeau is far ahead in the polls. T / F
- f) Mr Trudeau's rival said he was shocked at Trudeau's actions. T / F
- g) The rival said Mr Trudeau was not fit to govern Canada. T / F
- h) A politician said Mr Trudeau is a different person behind closed doors. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1. apologized | a. bigoted |
| 2. make-up | b. truthful |
| 3. racist | c. party |
| 4. gala | d. level |
| 5. character | e. cosmetics |
| 6. trouble | f. friendly |
| 7. neck-and-neck | g. role |
| 8. fit | h. said sorry |
| 9. honest | i. suitable |
| 10. warm | j. concern |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Is the quality of our politicians going down and down?
- c) Do you think Mr Trudeau will get re-elected?
- d) What do people of color think about the Trudeau photo?
- e) Is Justin Trudeau fit to govern?
- f) What do you think of your country's leader?
- g) Are all politicians two-faced?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Justin Trudeau?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. This is the wearing | a. doors |
| 2. it is racist, offensive | b. trouble for Mr Trudeau |
| 3. He was attending an end-of- | c. but I didn't |
| 4. dress as a | d. disappointed |
| 5. I should have known better, | e. of face make-up |
| 6. The photo could mean | f. year school gala |
| 7. neck-and-neck | g. to govern this country |
| 8. I was extremely shocked and | h. in the polls |
| 9. someone who's not fit | i. character from Aladdin |
| 10. behind closed | j. and disrespectful |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the action of brownface?
- What do you think of people who use brownface?
- What do you think of Justin Trudeau's actions?
- What do you think of Trudeau brownfacing many times?
- Is it wrong to dress up as someone a different color at a party?
- How racist do you think brownface and blackface are?
- Should Justin Trudeau quit because of his actions?
- What advice would you give Mr Trudeau?

Spelling

- the wearing of face kaempu
- It used to be mocmno
- in hitlcratea shows
- an Arabian Nights mehet
- a rcaerctah from Aladdin
- I'm really orysr
- He is running for er-oeciltne
- neck-and-neck in the osllp
- His biggest aiivr
- I was xyeemertl shocked
- an act of open mockery and aricsm
- I'll be sonhte with you

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. a	4. c	5. g
6. j	7. d	8. i	9. b	10. f

Role Play

Role A – National Leaders

You think national leaders have the biggest responsibility to be good role models. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their role models aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least responsible of these (and why): teachers, celebrities or religious leaders.

Role B – Teachers

You think teachers have the biggest responsibility to be good role models. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their role models aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least responsible of these (and why): national leaders, celebrities or religious leaders.

Role C – Celebrities

You think celebrities have the biggest responsibility to be good role models. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their role models aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least responsible of these (and why): teachers, national leaders or religious leaders.

Role D – Religious Leaders

You think religious leaders have the biggest responsibility to be good role models. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their role models aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least responsible of these (and why): teachers, celebrities or national leaders.

Speaking – Role Models

Rank these with your partner. Put the people most responsible for being a good role model at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| • national leader | • celebrity |
| • teacher | • community leader |
| • parent | • rock star |
| • sports star | • religious leader |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.