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Questions asked about Mumbai attacks

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0811/081129-terror.html>

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29th November, 2008

THE ARTICLE

The mopping up operation in Mumbai is now in its closing stages. Indian security forces are tracking down the remaining militants responsible for over 140 deaths in bloody terror attacks. Most of the dead are Indian, with six foreigners reported among the casualties. Explosions can still be heard in the famous Taj Mahal Palace hotel, but officials say they are now in full control of the other hotel attacked, the Oberoi. India's elite anti-terrorism troops have so far managed to free 200 hostages at the Taj. They weren't as effective in the nearby Nariman House, home of a Jewish centre, where five people were killed. Commandos stormed the building on Friday but were too late to prevent the gunmen from killing their Jewish hostages.

Questions are now being asked about who planned the attacks. A little-known group called the Deccan Mujahideen has claimed responsibility. The Indian government has issued statements suggesting Pakistan was behind the mayhem. Investigators say the gunmen arrived in an area near the Taj hotel from two Pakistani boats. Pakistan has denied any involvement. Pakistan's foreign minister has said his country is already fighting its own war against terrorists. Pakistan has sent its top intelligence official to India to try and help piece together the tragic events in Mumbai. There are other reports that British Muslims were among those who attacked the Indian city. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said it's too early to comment on this.

WARM-UPS

1. TERRORISM: Walk around the class and talk to other students about terrorism. Change partners often. After you finish, sit with your partner(s) 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.

mopping up / closing stages / security forces / terror attacks / casualties / hostages / planning / claiming responsibility / mayhem / investigators / intelligence officials

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

3. TERROR: Do you ever think about what terror is? Complete the table below with your partner(s). Write the worst terror situations you can think of. Share what you wrote with other students. Whose situations are the most terror-filled?

	Situation	What you would do
Airplane hijacking		
Being kidnapped		
Overseas incident		
Lost in the jungle		
Other _____		

4. WAR ON TERROR: Students A **strongly** believe the war on terror will never end; Students B **strongly** believe the war on terror will end. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. WORLD PEACE: What do these people need to do to make the world a more peaceful place. Discuss this with your partner(s). Change partners and discuss what you talked about. Who had the best ideas?

- U.S. President
- Religious leaders
- Pakistan / Indian leaders
- Leaders of Al Qaeda
- Middle East leaders
- Your country's leader

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

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. Soldiers with mops are cleaning the streets in Mumbai. | T / F |
| b. Most of those killed by gunmen in Mumbai were Indian. | T / F |
| c. India's anti-terrorism forces didn't free anyone from the Oberoi hotel. | T / F |
| d. Commandos were too late to stop gunmen killing Jewish hostages. | T / F |
| e. No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks in Mumbai. | T / F |
| f. The Indian government is accusing Pakistan of involvement. | T / F |
| g. Pakistan has sent its top intelligence guy to India to help out. | T / F |
| h. London has said Britons were among the militants in Mumbai. | T / F |

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

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. mopping up | a. stop |
| 2. tracking down | b. masterminded |
| 3. casualties | c. rejected |
| 4. effective | d. looking for |
| 5. prevent | e. speak about |
| 6. planned | f. cleaning |
| 7. mayhem | g. number one |
| 8. denied | h. successful |
| 9. top | i. dead and injured |
| 10. comment on | j. chaos |

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

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. The mopping | a. the casualties |
| 2. security forces are tracking | b. behind the mayhem |
| 3. six foreigners reported among | c. who planned the attacks |
| 4. they are now in full | d. down the remaining militants |
| 5. Commandos stormed | e. events in Mumbai |
| 6. Questions are now being asked about | f. the building on Friday |
| 7. statements suggesting Pakistan was | g. to comment on this |
| 8. Pakistan has denied any | h. up operation in Mumbai |
| 9. try and help piece together the tragic | i. control of the other hotel |
| 10. Brown said it's too early | j. involvement |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The mopping up _____ in Mumbai is now in its closing stages. Indian security forces are tracking down the remaining _____ responsible for over 140 deaths in bloody terror attacks. Most of the dead are Indian, with six foreigners _____ among the casualties. Explosions can still be heard in the famous Taj Mahal Palace hotel, but officials say they are now in full _____ of the other hotel attacked, the Oberoi. India's _____ anti-terrorism troops have so far managed to free 200 hostages at the Taj. They weren't as _____ in the nearby Nariman House, home of a Jewish centre, where five people were killed. Commandos _____ the building on Friday but were too late to _____ the gunmen from killing their Jewish hostages.

elite
stormed
control
militants
prevent
operation
effective
reported

Questions are now being asked about who _____ the attacks. A little-known group called the Deccan Mujahideen has claimed responsibility. The Indian government has _____ statements suggesting Pakistan was _____ the mayhem. Investigators say the gunmen arrived in an area near the Taj hotel from two Pakistani boats. Pakistan has _____ any involvement. Pakistan's foreign minister has said his country is already fighting its own war against terrorists. Pakistan has sent its _____ intelligence official to India to try and help piece together the _____ events in Mumbai. There are other _____ that British Muslims were among those who attacked the Indian city. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said it's too early to _____ on this.

top
comment
issued
tragic
behind
planned
reports
denied

LISTENING: Listen and fill in the spaces.

The mopping up operation in Mumbai _____ closing stages. Indian security forces are tracking down the remaining militants responsible for over 140 deaths in bloody terror attacks. Most _____ Indian, with six foreigners reported among the casualties. Explosions can _____ the famous Taj Mahal Palace hotel, but officials say they are now in full control of the other hotel attacked, the Oberoi. India's elite anti-terrorism troops _____ to free 200 hostages at the Taj. They weren't as effective in the nearby Nariman House, home of a Jewish centre, _____ were killed. Commandos stormed the building on Friday _____ to prevent the gunmen from killing their Jewish hostages.

Questions are _____ about who planned the attacks. A little-known group called the Deccan Mujahideen has claimed responsibility. The Indian government has issued statements suggesting Pakistan was _____. Investigators say the gunmen arrived in an area near the Taj hotel from two Pakistani boats. Pakistan _____ involvement. Pakistan's foreign minister has said his country is already fighting _____ terrorists. Pakistan has sent its top intelligence official to India to try and help piece together _____ in Mumbai. There are other reports that British Muslims were among those who attacked the Indian city. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said _____ comment on this.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words '**track**' and '**down**'.

track	down

- 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">• closing• bloody• six• elite• five• late	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• asked• issued• area• own• top• early
--	---

STUDENT TERRORISM SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about terrorism 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.

TERRORISM 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 'terrorism'?
- c) Do you think the war on terror can ever end?
- d) Who do you think is behind the Mumbai attacks and why?
- e) What news coverage did you read or see about the Mumbai attacks?
- f) How is this attack different from previous terror attacks?
- g) Do you think terrorist groups will use these tactics more often?
- h) Would this attack give you second thoughts about visiting India?
- i) Does an attack like this make you think twice about travelling abroad?
- j) What can hotels do to protect themselves against terrorist attacks?

Questions asked about Mumbai attacks– 29th November, 2008
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TERRORISM DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) What questions do you have regarding the Mumbai terror attacks?
- c) Where do you think the Deccan Mujahideen are from?
- d) What will happen if India finds Pakistan was behind the attacks?
- e) Do you think Indian officials who have been very quick to blame Pakistan are making the situation worse?
- f) What would Pakistan have to gain from such an attack on Mumbai?
- g) If Britons were among the gunmen, how would this change Anglo-Indian relations?
- h) How should Indian and Pakistani authorities work together to fight terror?
- i) Is India now a dangerous country to visit?
- j) What questions would you like to ask India's Prime Minister?

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LANGUAGE

The mopping up (1) ____ in Mumbai is now in its closing stages. Indian security forces are tracking down the remaining militants responsible for over 140 deaths in (2) ____ terror attacks. Most of the dead are Indian, with six foreigners reported among the casualties. Explosions can still be heard in the famous Taj Mahal Palace hotel, but officials say they are now in (3) ____ control of the other hotel attacked, the Oberoi. India's (4) ____ anti-terrorism troops have so far managed to free 200 hostages at the Taj. They weren't as (5) ____ in the nearby Nariman House, home of a Jewish centre, where five people were killed. Commandos stormed the building on Friday but were too late to prevent the gunmen (6) ____ killing their Jewish hostages.

Questions are now being asked about who (7) ____ the attacks. A little-known group called the Deccan Mujahideen has claimed responsibility. The Indian government has (8) ____ statements suggesting Pakistan was behind the mayhem. Investigators say the gunmen arrived in an area near the Taj hotel from two Pakistani boats. Pakistan has denied (9) ____ involvement. Pakistan's foreign minister has said his country is already fighting (10) ____ own war against terrorists. Pakistan has sent its top intelligence official to India to try and help piece (11) ____ the tragic events in Mumbai. There are other reports that British Muslims were among those who attacked the Indian city. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said it's too early to (12) ____ on this.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) consultation | (b) surgery | (c) treatment | (d) operation |
| 2. | (a) blood | (b) bloody | (c) bloods | (d) bloodstain |
| 3. | (a) full | (b) pull | (c) bull | (d) cull |
| 4. | (a) elites | (b) elitist | (c) elite | (d) elitism |
| 5. | (a) effectiveness | (b) effect | (c) effective | (d) effectively |
| 6. | (a) to | (b) from | (c) at | (d) for |
| 7. | (a) planned | (b) plan | (c) planners | (d) planning |
| 8. | (a) issues | (b) issue | (c) issuing | (d) issued |
| 9. | (a) a | (b) any | (c) many | (d) lots |
| 10. | (a) it is | (b) it's | (c) it | (d) its |
| 11. | (a) shared | (b) partners | (c) together | (d) each other |
| 12. | (a) comment | (b) commentary | (c) comments | (d) commented |

WRITING:

Write about **the war on terror** for 10 minutes. Correct your partner's paper.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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 the Mumbai terror attacks. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. 9-11s: "9-11" seems to have entered the language as a phrase meaning "atrocious terror attack". Since the attacks on American soil on September 11, 2001, world leaders have talked about "our 9-11" in response to terror attacks in their countries. Make a poster outlining the different '9-11s' that have taken place this decade. Describe how the attacks have changed the countries involved. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. ELITE: Write a magazine article about the terror attack in Mumbai. Include imaginary interviews with an elite Indian anti-terrorism commando who helped fight the gunmen, and a hostage in the hotel.

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. LETTER: Write a letter to an elite Indian anti-terrorism commando. Ask him/her three questions about his/her job. Give him/her your three ideas on what to do after he/she stops being a soldier. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

6. DIARY / JOURNAL: You are an elite anti-terrorism commando. Write a diary entry about your job and what you do in one day. Focus on the really difficult things. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

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

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. mopping up | a. cleaning |
| 2. tracking down | b. looking for |
| 3. casualties | c. dead and injured |
| 4. effective | d. successful |
| 5. prevent | e. stop |
| 6. planned | f. masterminded |
| 7. mayhem | g. chaos |
| 8. denied | h. rejected |
| 9. top | i. number one |
| 10. comment on | j. speak about |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. The mopping | a. up operation in Mumbai |
| 2. security forces are tracking | b. down the remaining militants |
| 3. six foreigners reported among | c. the casualties |
| 4. they are now in full | d. control of the other hotel |
| 5. Commandos stormed | e. the building on Friday |
| 6. Questions are now being asked about | f. who planned the attacks |
| 7. statements suggesting Pakistan was | g. behind the mayhem |
| 8. Pakistan has denied any | h. involvement |
| 9. try and help piece together the tragic | i. events in Mumbai |
| 10. Brown said it's too early | j. to comment on this |

GAP FILL:

Questions asked about Mumbai attacks

The mopping up **operation** in Mumbai is now in its closing stages. Indian security forces are tracking down the remaining **militants** responsible for over 140 deaths in bloody terror attacks. Most of the dead are Indian, with six foreigners **reported** among the casualties. Explosions can still be heard in the famous Taj Mahal Palace hotel, but officials say they are now in full **control** of the other hotel attacked, the Oberoi. India's **elite** anti-terrorism troops have so far managed to free 200 hostages at the Taj. They weren't as **effective** in the nearby Nariman House, home of a Jewish centre, where five people were killed. Commandos **stormed** the building on Friday but were too late to **prevent** the gunmen from killing their Jewish hostages.

Questions are now being asked about who **planned** the attacks. A little-known group called the Deccan Mujahideen has claimed responsibility. The Indian government has **issued** statements suggesting Pakistan was **behind** the mayhem. Investigators say the gunmen arrived in an area near the Taj hotel from two Pakistani boats. Pakistan has **denied** any involvement. Pakistan's foreign minister has said his country is already fighting its own war against terrorists. Pakistan has sent its **top** intelligence official to India to try and help piece together the **tragic** events in Mumbai. There are other **reports** that British Muslims were among those who attacked the Indian city. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said it's too early to **comment** on this.

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d 2 - b 3 - a 4 - c 5 - c 6 - b 7 - a 8 - d 9 - b 10 - d 11 - c 12 - a