

# BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

## Israel and Hamas declare 72-hour truce

3rd August, 2014



The state of Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas started a 72-hour ceasefire on Friday morning. The halt in hostilities was engineered by America's

Secretary of State John Kerry and the U.N. Secretary-General Ban-ki Moon. The humanitarian truce will give Palestinians time to restock on basic supplies such as food and medicines. They also need to repair power stations which have been put out of action during the fighting of the past three weeks. Israelis and Palestinians are also to meet in Cairo, Egypt to talk about the possibility of a permanent truce between the two sides. They will talk about resolving the underlying differences that have caused unrest for decades.

Hamas said it would abide by the pause in fighting. Its spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said: "Acknowledging a call by the United Nations and in consideration of the situation of our people, resistance factions agreed to a 72-hour humanitarian and mutual calm...as long as the other side abides by it." He added: "All the Palestinian factions are united behind the issue." The day before the ceasefire was announced, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his country would continue to destroy the tunnels that have been dug under the Gaza-Israel border. John Kerry called the ceasefire "precious time." He said: "It is a moment for the different factions to be able to come together with the state of Israel."

Sources: BBC / Jerusalem Post / Al Jazeera

## Writing

Discuss three of the biggest problems in Gaza and how we can overcome them.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*Israel / Hamas / ceasefire / hostilities / basic supplies / power stations / differences / pause / United Nations / resistance / calm / issue / tunnels / precious / moment*

## True / False

- a) Israel and Hamas started a 3-day ceasefire on Friday morning. T / F
- b) The truce was engineered by the leaders of Israel and Hamas. T / F
- c) The two sides will meet in Egypt to talk about a permanent ceasefire. T / F
- d) The sides will only discuss the issue of tunnels when they meet. T / F
- e) Hamas said it doubted if Israel would abide by the ceasefire. T / F
- f) Hamas said all Palestinian groups supported the truce. T / F
- g) Israel said it would stop destroying the tunnels during the ceasefire. T / F
- h) John Kerry called the ceasefire a "precious moment". T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. state       | a. groups       |
| 2. hostilities | b. key          |
| 3. basic       | c. settling     |
| 4. permanent   | d. demolish     |
| 5. resolving   | e. lasting      |
| 6. pause       | f. little while |
| 7. call        | g. nation       |
| 8. factions    | h. request      |
| 9. destroy     | i. fighting     |
| 10. moment     | j. cessation    |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What would you say to the leaders of Israel?
- b) What happens during a humanitarian ceasefire?
- c) Do you think the average Israeli or Palestinian agrees with their leaders?
- d) Who is to blame for the current fighting?
- e) What makes you most angry about the situation?
- f) Can the USA do anything to help stop the fighting?
- g) Can other Arab nations do anything to help stop the fighting?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a Gazan and Israeli?

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## Phrase Match

1. halt in
  2. put out of
  3. the possibility of a permanent truce
  4. talk about resolving the underlying
  5. caused unrest
  6. abide by the pause
  7. in consideration of the situation
  8. mutual
  9. tunnels that have been dug under
  10. be able to come
- a. action
  - b. for decades
  - c. of our people
  - d. calm
  - e. between the two sides
  - f. hostilities
  - g. the Gaza-Israel border
  - h. differences
  - i. together
  - j. in fighting

## Discussion – Student B

- a) Why do ceasefires rarely hold?
- b) What will it take for the two sides to stop fighting?
- c) What started the current hostilities?
- d) What are your greatest concerns regarding the current conflict?
- e) What are the two sides fighting for?
- f) What images stick in your mind most regarding this conflict?
- g) What differences in reporting have you noticed in the media?
- h) Will there ever be peace between the two sides?

## Spelling

1. halt in ishltoteisi
2. eeeenirdng by America's Secretary of State
3. The ahaiuintnram truce
4. restock on basic seuiprsp
5. the possibility of a nptmreena truce
6. resolving the rdenlyngiu differences
7. Hamas said it would beida by the pause
8. resistance atniscof
9. mautul calm
10. before the ceasefire was dnnnoauec
11. continue to destroy the nsteunl
12. urposice time

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Hamas

You think Hamas is the likeliest party to bring about peace. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their parties could not bring about peace. Also, tell the others which is the least helpful of these (and why): the Arab League, Benjamin Netanyahu or Israeli citizens.

### Role B – The Arab League

You think the Arab League is the likeliest party to bring about peace. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their parties could not bring about peace. Also, tell the others which is the least helpful of these (and why): Hamas, Benjamin Netanyahu or Israeli citizens.

### Role C – Benjamin Netanyahu

You think Benjamin Netanyahu is the likeliest party to bring about peace. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their parties could not bring about peace. Also, tell the others which is the least helpful of these (and why): the Arab League, Hamas or Israeli citizens.

### Role D – Israeli citizens

You think Israeli citizens are the likeliest party to bring about peace. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their parties could not bring about peace. Also, tell the others which is the least helpful of these (and why): the Arab League, Benjamin Netanyahu or Hamas.

## Speaking – Peace

Rank these in order of who is most important to bring about peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

Hamas	Arab League
Israel's Prime Minister	Egypt
USA	Palestinian Authority
United Nations	Israeli citizens

### Answers – True False

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