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**Level 5 – 5th April, 2019**

## **Saudi capital city to get \$23 billion makeover**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1904/190405-riyadh-5.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1904/190405-riyadh-5.html>

Saudi Arabia's government will invest \$23 billion in a huge makeover for its capital city, Riyadh. This is part of a project to beautify the city, create hundreds of thousands of jobs, boost leisure and tourism, and create "one of the world's most livable cities". In addition, a further \$15 billion in private sector funding will finance investment opportunities for businesses. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman will oversee the ambitious project. It is part of his Vision 2030 initiative aimed at diversifying the kingdom's revenue sources and move away from relying on oil.

Other world capitals can only dream of receiving such vast amounts of money. Saudi aims to improve the quality of life for Riyadh's 5 million residents. A focus on leisure will make people happier. There will be over 130km of cycling track, a huge new park and hundreds of art installations. Riyadh will be a greener city. The amount of green space per person will increase 16-fold. Over 7.5 million trees will be planted and dozens of community gardens created. Work on the project will begin in the second half of the year. It will create 70,000 jobs and take around 10 years to complete.

Sources: <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/03/20/saudi-arabia-is-giving-its-capital-a-23-billion-makeover.html>  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-03-19/saudi-king-launches-23-billion-riyadh-beautification-program>  
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-saudi-economy/saudi-arabia-invests-23-billion-to-improve-living-in-riyadh-idUSKCN1R01IT>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1904/190405-riyadh-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. part of a project to       | a. project           |
| 2. boost leisure              | b. funding           |
| 3. one of the world's most    | c. on oil            |
| 4. private sector             | d. beautify the city |
| 5. finance investment         | e. revenue sources   |
| 6. oversee the ambitious      | f. and tourism       |
| 7. diversifying the kingdom's | g. opportunities     |
| 8. move away from relying     | h. livable cities    |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. such vast                 | a. be planted        |
| 2. A focus                   | b. 70,000 jobs       |
| 3. The amount of green space | c. amounts of money  |
| 4. 7.5 million trees will    | d. years to complete |
| 5. dozens of community       | e. half of the year  |
| 6. begin in the second       | f. per person        |
| 7. It will create            | g. on leisure        |
| 8. take around 10            | h. gardens           |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1904/190405-riyadh-5.html>

Saudi Arabia's government will invest \$23 billion (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
makeover for its capital city, Riyadh. This is part (2) \_\_\_\_\_  
to beautify the city, create hundreds (3) \_\_\_\_\_ jobs, boost  
leisure and tourism, and create "one of the world's most livable cities". In  
addition, a further \$15 billion (4) \_\_\_\_\_ funding will finance  
investment opportunities for businesses. Crown Prince Mohammed bin  
Salman (5) \_\_\_\_\_ ambitious project. It is part of his Vision  
2030 initiative aimed at diversifying the kingdom's revenue sources and  
move away (6) \_\_\_\_\_ oil.

Other world capitals can (7) \_\_\_\_\_ receiving such vast  
amounts of money. Saudi aims to improve the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ for  
Riyadh's 5 million residents. A focus on leisure (9) \_\_\_\_\_  
happier. There will be over 130km of cycling track, a huge new park and  
hundreds (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Riyadh will be a greener city. The  
amount of green space per person will increase 16-fold. Over 7.5 million  
trees will be planted (11) \_\_\_\_\_ community gardens  
created. Work on the project will begin in the (12) \_\_\_\_\_  
the year. It will create 70,000 jobs and take around 10 years to complete.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1904/190405-riyadh-5.html>

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# CAPITAL CITIES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1904/190405-riyadh-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about capital cities 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<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 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.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

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More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

