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Level 5 – 30th July, 2019

Scaled down Hajj takes place in Mecca

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca-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/2007/200730-hajj-mecca-5.html>

The annual Hajj is taking place in the sacred city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The pilgrimage is the most important event in the Muslim calendar. It can last six days and is a mandatory religious duty for Muslims. All adult Muslims should attend Hajj once in their lifetime. They must be physically and financially capable of going on the journey and must be able to support their family during their absence. This year's Hajj has been scaled down because of measures for coronavirus. The pandemic has postponed numerous events. This has caused disappointment for pilgrims.

The Saudi Ministry of Hajj announced it was greatly limiting the number of pilgrims allowed to enter the holy site this year. Officials said they wanted to avoid any outbreaks of COVID-19 and lower the risk of infection. Many Muslim-majority countries have cancelled pilgrimages to Mecca. This means Mecca will get a tiny fraction of the two million Hajj pilgrims it usually receives. This year, just a few thousand Saudi Arabian citizens can attend. The news did not upset twenty-two-time pilgrim Wafa Shaheen. She said: "I know there are plenty of ways to take advantage of this precious spiritual time."

Sources: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1711031/saudi-arabia>
<https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/hajj-2020-latest-updates-as-the-pilgrimage-begins-1.1055536>
<https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/haj-2020-pilgrims-from-160-nationalities-set-to-perform-rituals-1.72803704>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hajj>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. The annual Hajj is taking place | a. for pilgrims |
| 2. The pilgrimage is the most | b. duty |
| 3. a mandatory religious | c. financially capable |
| 4. attend Hajj once in their | d. events |
| 5. They must be physically and | e. for coronavirus |
| 6. because of measures | f. in the sacred city |
| 7. The pandemic has postponed numerous | g. lifetime |
| 8. This has caused disappointment | h. important event |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The Saudi Ministry of Hajj | a. time pilgrim |
| 2. greatly limiting the | b. outbreaks |
| 3. enter the holy | c. spiritual time |
| 4. they wanted to avoid any | d. announced it was |
| 5. lower the risk | e. fraction |
| 6. get a tiny | f. number of pilgrims |
| 7. twenty-two- | g. of infection |
| 8. take advantage of this precious | h. site |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca-5.html>

The annual Hajj is taking place in (1) _____ of Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The pilgrimage is the most important event in the Muslim calendar. It can last six days and (2) _____ religious duty for Muslims. All adult Muslims should attend Hajj once (3) _____. They must be physically and financially capable of going on the journey and must be (4) _____ their family during their absence. This year's Hajj has (5) _____ because of measures for coronavirus. The pandemic (6) _____ events. This has caused disappointment for pilgrims.

The Saudi Ministry of Hajj announced it (7) _____ the number of pilgrims allowed to enter (8) _____ this year. Officials said they wanted to avoid any outbreaks of COVID-19 and lower the (9) _____. Many Muslim-majority countries have cancelled pilgrimages to Mecca. This means Mecca will get (10) _____ of the two million Hajj pilgrims it usually receives. This year, just a few thousand Saudi Arabian (11) _____. The news did not upset twenty-two-time pilgrim Wafa Shaheen. She said: "I know there are plenty of ways to take advantage of this (12) _____."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca-5.html>

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HAJJ SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2007/200730-hajj-mecca-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Hajj 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.

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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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

