

Israel and UAE reach historic peace deal

15th August, 2020



Israel and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to normalise relations in exchange for the suspension of Israeli plans to annex parts of the West Bank. The historic breakthrough was announced in a joint statement yesterday

by Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed Al Nahyan, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. President Donald Trump. They expressed hope that the "historic breakthrough will advance peace in the Middle East". Israel has had diplomatic relations with its neighbours Egypt and Jordan for decades, but until now, it has never had such a relationship with any Gulf Arab state. Israel will "focus its efforts now on expanding ties with other countries in the Arab and Muslim world".

The agreement is called the Abraham Accord. The three leaders behind it said: "This historic diplomatic breakthrough...is a testament to the bold diplomacy...vision...and courage of the UAE and Israel to chart a new path that will unlock great potential in the region." Mr Netanyahu called it a "historic day". However, he said the sovereignty of the West Bank "remains on the table". The UAE said the deal with Israel was a "win for diplomacy and the region". It added: "It is a significant advance in Arab-Israeli relations that lowers tensions and creates new energy for positive change." The Palestinian leadership called it a "betrayal" of the Palestinian cause and the equivalent of being "sold out by friends".

Sources: [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com) / [aljazeera.com](https://www.aljazeera.com) / [thenational.ae](https://www.thenational.ae)

Writing

The Israel-UAE peace deal is the start of peace in the Middle East. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Israel / UAE / relations / West Bank / historic / breakthrough / diplomatic / Arab / vision / courage / potential / region / tensions / positive / change / betrayal / friends

True / False

- a) Israel has scrapped plans to annex the West Bank. T / F
- b) The leader of Dubai was one of three leaders making a joint declaration. T / F
- c) Israel and Jordan have been at peace for decades. T / F
- d) Israel wants to build ties with other Arab countries. T / F
- e) The agreement is called The Genesis Accord. T / F
- f) Israel's leader said it the most historic day in his country's history. T / F
- g) The UAE said the deal would lower tensions in the region. T / F
- h) The Palestinian leader welcomed the deal. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. agreed | a. possibilities |
| 2. annex | b. relationships |
| 3. statement | c. parallel |
| 4. breakthrough | d. declaration |
| 5. ties | e. authority |
| 6. courage | f. take over |
| 7. potential | g. treachery |
| 8. sovereignty | h. bravery |
| 9. betrayal | i. consented |
| 10. equivalent | j. step forward |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of this news?
- b) What do you know about Israel?
- c) Who is this deal best for?
- d) Who are the losers in this deal?
- e) What does the normalisation mean for the region?
- f) What do you think this deal does for the West Bank's future?
- g) To what degree will this deal advance peace in the Middle East?
- h) How historic is this deal?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. annex | a. neighbours |
| 2. the historic breakthrough | b. out by friends |
| 3. diplomatic relations with its | c. ties with other countries |
| 4. focus its | d. to the bold diplomacy |
| 5. expanding | e. will advance peace |
| 6. a testament | f. the West Bank |
| 7. chart a | g. efforts |
| 8. the sovereignty of | h. in Arab-Israeli relations |
| 9. a significant advance | i. new path |
| 10. the equivalent of being sold | j. parts of the West Bank |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about the UAE?
- What do you think of the name 'Abraham Accord'?
- How do you think Iran will view this deal?
- Why did the Palestinians call it a 'betrayal'?
- What advice do you have for the Palestinians?
- What more must happen before there is peace in the Middle East?
- What questions would you like to ask the leaders?

Spelling

- agreed to armnllose relations
- in exchange for the espnuisson
- announced in a joint taesemtnt
- historic ehakrbortugh
- pmloiatdic relations
- focus its efforts now on npaedixng ties
- a esatemtnt to the bold diplomacy
- vision and orucage
- unlock great nteptioal in the region
- a gfniisacint advance
- a etraybal of the Palestinian cause
- the quvelaient of being sold out

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – White Dove

You think a white dove is the best peace symbol. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their signs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): an olive branch, a V sign or an origami crane.

Role B – Olive Branch

You think an olive branch is the best peace symbol. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their signs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a white dove, a V sign or an origami crane.

Role C – V Sign

You think a V sign is the best peace symbol. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their signs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): an olive branch, a white dove or an origami crane.

Role D – Origami Crane

You think an origami crane is the best peace symbol. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their signs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): an olive branch, a V sign or a white dove.

Speaking – Peace

Rank these with your partner. Put the best peace symbols at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| • A broken rifle | • A white dove |
| • A white poppy | • An V sign |
| • An olive branch | • An origami crane |
| • The CND symbol | • A rainbow flag |

Answers – True False

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

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.