

2020 - A year we will never forget

31st December, 2020



For billions of people around the world, January the 1st, 2020 seemed like a great day. It was the start of a year that sounded like science fiction - 2020. Many people had great hopes for the year ahead. Few knew what a rollercoaster ride 2020

would be and how the world would change. The year has been dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This has brought hundreds of thousands of deaths, economic chaos, lockdowns and masked populations. Another huge event was the death of George Floyd at the hands of U.S. police in July. This sparked the Black Lives Matter movement and global protests. The year ended with Joe Biden being voted in as the President-elect of the USA.

Different people will have different memories of 2020. Our reporters asked people around the world to tell us what they will remember 2020 for. Ahmed Hussein from Lebanon said he would never forget the massive explosion at a Beirut port in August that killed at least 190 people. He said he thanked God none of his family or friends were hurt, but was sad at the destruction of his city. Lucy Baxter, a nurse in the UK, said her happiest moment came with the news of the vaccines for COVID-19. She said she could see light at the end of a long and dark tunnel. Ayumi Miyamoto of Japan was saddened by the postponement of the Tokyo Olympics but is happy they will go ahead in 2021. She said 2021 would be a good year.

Source: [BreakingNewsEnglish.com](https://breakingnewsenglish.com)

Writing

What three things can we learn from 2020 to make the world better?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

billions / science fiction / hopes / rollercoaster / pandemic / population / global / memories / remember / explosion / family / friends / destruction / light / tunnel

True / False

- a) The article said millions of people thought 2020 would be a great year. T / F
- b) The article says there is a science fiction movie about the year 2020. T / F
- c) The article says 2020 was like a rollercoaster ride. T / F
- d) The article mentioned economic chaos and lockdowns. T / F
- e) Reporters asked people in India about their memories of 2020. T / F
- f) A man was sad about the explosion in Beirut in August. T / F
- g) A nurse was happy about vaccines being discovered for COVID-19. T / F
- h) A Japanese woman thinks 2021 will be equally bad. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. great | a. enormous |
| 2. ahead | b. disorganization |
| 3. chaos | c. dispirited |
| 4. huge | d. demonstrations |
| 5. protests | e. blast |
| 6. memories | f. to come |
| 7. explosion | g. ruination |
| 8. destruction | h. take place |
| 9. saddened | i. wonderful |
| 10. go ahead | j. recollections |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What did you think of 2020?
- b) What did you think 2020 would be like at the start of the year?
- c) What was the best thing about 2020?
- d) What regrets do you have about 2020?
- e) How was your English studying in 2020?
- f) How much did the pandemic affect you?
- g) What do you know about the Black Lives Matter movement?
- h) What do you think of President-elect Joe Biden?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. For billions of people | a. explosion |
| 2. a year that sounded | b. for the year ahead |
| 3. Many people had great hopes | c. protests |
| 4. economic | d. and dark tunnel |
| 5. global | e. chaos |
| 6. Different people will have | f. ahead in 2021 |
| 7. massive | g. like science fiction |
| 8. the vaccines | h. different memories |
| 9. she could see light at the end of a long | i. for COVID-19 |
| 10. happy they will go | j. around the world |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Did you have any New Year's resolutions for 2020?
- What was the biggest news story of 2020?
- Who was the biggest personality of 2020?
- What do you think of a vaccine being found?
- Has there been a worse year than 2020?
- Can you see light at the end of the tunnel?
- What questions would you like to ask the reporters?

Spelling

- io bl l s n i of people
- sounded like en cs i ce fiction
- what a er cs lea ool tr ride
- economic oh cs a
- global so pe st tr
- the President-et ce l of the USA
- different mo e e m s r i of 2020
- massive pi o l o s n e x
- the ten cs ud t i r o of his city
- news of the nc av i ce for COVID-19
- the end of a long and dark ne tn lu
- the on se tp nt op me of the Tokyo Olympics

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Smartphone

You think a smartphone was the most essential item to have in 2020. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least essential of these (and why): a mask, an English dictionary or chocolate.

Role B – Mask

You think a mask was the most essential item to have in 2020. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least essential of these (and why): smartphone, an English dictionary or chocolate.

Role C – English Dictionary

You think an English dictionary was the most essential item to have in 2020. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least essential of these (and why): a mask, smartphone or chocolate.

Role D – Chocolate

You think chocolate was the most essential item to have in 2020. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least essential of these (and why): a mask, an English dictionary or smartphone.

Speaking – Things of 2020

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things for 2020 at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| • Alcohol spray | • Smartphone |
| • Sun block | • Mask |
| • Thermometer | • English dictionary |
| • Chocolate | • Games console |

Answers – True False

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