

2021 not as bad as 2020, says think tank

3rd January, 2022



An influential think tank has suggested that the year 2021 wasn't as bad as 2020. The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) is a United States not-for-profit body of experts specializing in U.S. foreign policy and international affairs. It celebrated its centenary in

2021. It stated that 2021 "wasn't as tumultuous as 2020, which put in a claim to be the worst year ever". However, there was still plenty of dreadful news. Number one on the bad news list was the world's failure to properly address the climate change challenge. This led to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres declaring "a code red for humanity". Other top-ten stories included the mutating of the coronavirus, mass migration, the supply chain crisis, and the Taliban returning to power.

The CFR asserted that 2021 did bring some good news. It said: "For a moment in early summer, it seemed that COVID-19 was in the rearview mirror." On the brighter side, more than 9 billion covid-19 vaccinations were administered globally. Many notable achievements occurred in 2021. NASA's Perseverance rover successfully "drilled, extracted and stored a sample of Martian rock" for the very first time. In health news, "after decades of targeted and sustained action," the WHO declared China free of malaria. There was also good news regarding sustainability as United Airlines flew the first passenger aircraft with 100 per cent sustainable fuel. And... cheese lovers were guaranteed there is "no evidence that cheese causes weight gain".

Sources: cfr.org / wired.com / theweek.co.uk

Writing

The year 2021 wasn't as bad as 2020. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

think tank / 2021 / foreign relations / experts / international affairs / code red / crisis / good news / summer / vaccinations / health / malaria / sustainability / fuel / cheese

True / False

- 1) A Canadian not-for-profit body said 2021 was better than 2020. T / F
- 2) The Council on Foreign Relations is 100 years old. T / F
- 3) Failures over climate change topped the list of bad news. T / F
- 4) The USA declared a code red for humanity. T / F
- 5) A non-profit body said the pandemic was over last summer. T / F
- 6) NASA managed to get rock samples from Mars last year. T / F
- 7) The article says malaria was finally eradicated in Africa. T / F
- 8) The article suggested cheese lovers might have been happy with 2021. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. influential | a. given |
| 2. body | b. terrible |
| 3. tumultuous | c. promised |
| 4. dreadful | d. organization |
| 5. crisis | e. declared |
| 6. asserted | f. important |
| 7. administered | g. proof |
| 8. sample | h. catastrophe |
| 9. guaranteed | i. stormy |
| 10. evidence | j. specimen |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about think tanks?
- b) What did you think of 2021?
- c) How does last year compare to 2020?
- d) What was good and bad about 2021 for you?
- e) What do you know about code red for humanity?
- f) How has your government handled the coronavirus?
- g) Has mass migration affected your country?
- h) What do you think of the Taliban returning to power?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. a United States not-for-profit body | a. causes weight gain |
| 2. 2021 wasn't | b. of the coronavirus |
| 3. there was still plenty of | c. sustained action |
| 4. the mutating | d. of experts |
| 5. the supply | e. side |
| 6. For a moment | f. as tumultuous |
| 7. On the brighter | g. in early summer |
| 8. extracted and stored a sample | h. chain crisis |
| 9. after decades of targeted and | i. of Martian rock |
| 10. no evidence that cheese | j. dreadful news |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What did you think of 2020?
- What good news was there in 2021?
- What do you think of the exploration of Mars?
- What do you know about malaria?
- What do you think 2022 will be like?
- What do you think of cheese?
- What questions would you like to ask the think tank?

Spelling

- not-for-profit body of xstper
- 2021 wasn't as utmsuulotu as 2020
- plenty of edurafld news
- declaring a code red for tumnyiah
- the muttgina of the coronavirus
- mass trgomanii
- The CFR rsedsaet that
- naisvnoiactc were administered globally
- the WHO declared China free of raailam
- good news regarding ialtisbnatuiys
- cheese lovers were grnedateau
- there is no edceienv

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Better English

You think better English is the most important thing to get in 2022. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): more exercise, healthier diet or new friends.

Role B – More Exercise

You think more exercise is the most important thing to get in 2022. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): better English, healthier diet or new friends.

Role C – Healthier Diet

You think a healthier diet is the most important thing to get in 2022. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): more exercise, better English or new friends.

Role D – New Friends

You think new friends is the most important thing to get in 2022. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): more exercise, healthier diet or better English.

Speaking – 2022

Rank these with your partner. Put the things you want most for 2022 at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| • Better English | • Healthier diet |
| • More clothes | • Saving money |
| • Good health | • More restaurants |
| • More exercise | • New friends |

Answers – True False

1 F	2 T	3 T	4 F	5 F	6 T	7 F	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.