

www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-use ESL / EFL Lessons

The Breaking News English.com Resource Book

“1,000 Ideas & Activities For Language Teachers”

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html>

Arab Gulf nations call for nuclear-free region

URL: <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0512/051220-gulf.html>

Contents

The Article	2
Warm-ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading	7
Discussion	8
Speaking	9
Homework	10
Answers	11

20 December, 2005

THE ARTICLE

Arab Gulf nations call for nuclear-free region

Leaders of six Arab states wrapped up their 26th Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit in Abu Dhabi on Monday. They made a series of landmark decisions on a broad range of key areas, such as defence, the forming of a nuclear free region, greater economic integration, terrorism and peace in the Middle East. Concerns were repeatedly voiced over the proliferation of nuclear arms and weapons of mass destruction in the region. Members called on Israel to declare itself a nuclear-free state but stopped short of specifically mentioning Iran in the weapons-free equation. A spokesman said: "We have confidence in Iran, but we don't want to see the Iranian nuclear reactor, which is closer to our coast than to Tehran, as a cause of peril and damage to us."

Iraq was high on the agenda of issues discussed. All member states expressed their hopes that a new, peaceful and prosperous Iraq would emerge from the embers of dictatorship, invasions and occupation. The Council condemned all acts of terrorism on people and infrastructure in Iraq. It denounced "the deliberate mass killing of Iraqis...and detainees...committed by the former Iraqi regime". The Council also said "unearthed mass graves are in flagrant violation of...Islamic and Arab principles, ethics and values". The summit adopted the 'Abu Dhabi Declaration', which stresses the need to enhance education to confront global challenges and make the region excel worldwide. The GCC consists of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

WARM-UPS

1. SENTENCE STARTERS: Complete the following six sentence starters about the Gulf Arab states (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates). Talk about your completed sentences with your partner(s).

Gulf Arab states are _____.

Gulf Arab states aren't _____.

Gulf Arab states will _____.

Gulf Arab states can _____.

Gulf Arab states should _____.

Gulf Arab states play _____.

2. GCC: What do you know of the Gulf Cooperation Council? In pairs / groups, share your knowledge of the member states. Change partners and repeat.

- Saudi Arabia
- Kuwait
- Oman
- Qatar
- Bahrain
- United Arab Emirates

3. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words are most interesting and which are most boring.

Arab states / summits / Abu Dhabi / landmarks / decisions / peace / equations / perils / prosperity / embers / mass graves / principles / values / to excel / UAE

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

4. ARAB LANDS: In pairs / groups, talk about these aspects of life in the Arab Gulf. Would any of these things make you want to visit or live there?

- Duty-free shopping
- Deserts
- Futuristic cities
- Ancient archaeological sites
- Camel racing
- The world's only 7-star hotel
- Sun
- Major international sporting events

5. MIDDLE EAST OPINIONS: Discuss these opinions with your partner(s).

- a. The Middle East has a very bright and rosy future.
- b. Terrorism will never disappear from the Middle East.
- c. There are too many damaging political rivalries between Arab countries.
- d. Democracy will one day prevail throughout the Middle East.
- e. Iran will never make nuclear weapons.
- f. A new generation of leaders will make the region very prosperous.
- g. The Middle East is a region of superlatives.
- h. The Middle East is an important center for many things in the world.

6. ARAB: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "Arab". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. Leaders of six Arab nations wrapped up presents in Abu Dhabi. | T / F |
| b. They made a series of decisions to build record-breaking landmarks. | T / F |
| c. They voiced concerns over the spread of nuclear arms in the region. | T / F |
| d. The leaders expressed confidence in Iran. | T / F |
| e. Iraq was low on the agenda of issues discussed. | T / F |
| f. The leaders said they hoped embers would help rebuild Iraq. | T / F |
| g. The summit prioritized the need for education to advance the region. | T / F |
| h. The six Arab Gulf countries at the summit included Iraq and Iran. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| a. wrapped up | pivotal |
| b. key | ashes |
| c. proliferation | blatant |
| d. stopped short | shine |
| e. peril | condemned |
| f. prosperous | failed |
| g. embers | affluent |
| h. denounced | concluded |
| i. flagrant | mushrooming |
| j. excel | danger |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| a. wrapped | mentioning Iran |
| b. a series of landmark decisions | confront global challenges |
| c. Concerns were repeatedly voiced over | of dictatorship |
| d. stopped short of specifically | the proliferation of nuclear arms |
| e. the weapons-free | up their 26th GCC summit |
| f. high | on a broad range of key areas |
| g. emerge from the embers | excel worldwide |
| h. in flagrant violation | equation |
| i. enhance education to | of Islamic and Arab principles |
| j. make the region | on the agenda |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words in the column on the right into the gaps in the text.

Arab Gulf nations call for nuclear-free region

Leaders of six Arab states _____ up their 26th Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit in Abu Dhabi on Monday. They made a series of _____ decisions on a broad range of key areas, such as defence, the forming of a nuclear free region, _____ economic integration, terrorism and peace in the Middle East. Concerns were repeatedly _____ over the proliferation of nuclear arms and weapons of mass destruction in the region. Members called on Israel to _____ itself a nuclear-free state but stopped _____ of specifically mentioning Iran in the weapons-free equation. A spokesman said: "We have confidence in Iran, but we don't want to see the Iranian nuclear _____, which is closer to our coast than to Tehran, as a cause of _____ and damage to us."

Iraq was _____ on the agenda of issues discussed. All member states expressed their hopes that a new, peaceful and _____ Iraq would emerge from the _____ of dictatorship, invasions and occupation. The Council condemned all acts of terrorism on people and infrastructure in Iraq. It denounced "the deliberate _____ killing of Iraqis...and detainees...committed by the former Iraqi regime". The Council also said "unearthed mass _____ are in flagrant _____ of...Islamic and Arab principles, ethics and values". The summit adopted the 'Abu Dhabi Declaration', which stresses the need to _____ education to confront global challenges and make the region _____ worldwide. The GCC consists of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

declare
greater
peril
voiced
wrapped
short
landmark
reactor
enhance
embers
violation
mass
high
excel
prosperous
graves

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Arab Gulf nations call for nuclear-free region

Leaders of six Arab states _____ up their 26th Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit in Abu Dhabi on Monday. They made a series of _____ decisions on a _____ range of key areas, such as defence, the forming of a nuclear free region, greater economic integration, terrorism and peace in the Middle East. Concerns were repeatedly _____ over the proliferation of nuclear arms and weapons of mass destruction in the region. Members called on Israel to declare itself a nuclear-free state but _____ of specifically mentioning Iran in the weapons-free _____. A spokesman said: "We have confidence in Iran, but we don't want to see the Iranian nuclear reactor, which is closer to our coast than to Tehran, as a cause of _____ and damage to us."

Iraq was high on the _____ of issues discussed. All member states expressed their hopes that a new, peaceful and prosperous Iraq would emerge from the _____ of dictatorship, invasions and occupation. The Council condemned all acts of terrorism on people and infrastructure in Iraq. It _____ "the deliberate mass killing of Iraqis...and _____...committed by the former Iraqi regime". The Council also said "unearthed mass graves are in _____ violation of...Islamic and Arab principles, ethics and values". The summit adopted the 'Abu Dhabi Declaration', which stresses the need to _____ education to confront global challenges and make the region _____ worldwide. The GCC consists of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'gulf' and 'state'.

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. STUDENT "ARAB STATES" SURVEY: In pairs / groups, write down questions about Arab nations and the influence they will have in the world in the future.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

6. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| • wrapped | • agenda |
| • landmark | • embers |
| • voiced | • infrastructure |
| • short | • graves |
| • confidence | • adopted |
| • peril | • excel |

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- b. Do you think a nuclear-free Middle East can be achieved?
- c. Do you think it is realistic to expect Israel to rid itself of nuclear weapons?
- d. Why do you think the Council wasn't stronger in calling on Iran to stop any nuclear weapons designs it might have?
- e. How would you feel if your neighboring country started building nuclear power stations right on your border?
- f. Do you think the GCC can influence Iran?
- g. What more do you think members of the GCC can do to combat international terrorism?
- h. Do you think GCC member states should be more involved in the reconstruction of Iraq?
- i. What do you see happening in the Middle East over the next ten years?
- j. Do you have confidence in Iran?

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a. Did you like reading this article?
- b. What do you think about what you read?
- c. Do you think the Gulf Cooperation Council has a lot of power?
- d. Why do you think other Arab nations are not members of the Gulf Cooperation Council?
- e. Do you think an Arab economic bloc with a single currency would change the region and the world?
- f. Do you think Arab nations will emerge into more powerful economic countries similar to the Asian "tiger" economies?
- g. What do you think are the global challenges ahead for the Arab Gulf region?
- h. What do you know about Dubai, Riyadh, Muscat and Kuwait City?
- i. Would you like to visit Abu Dhabi?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

AFTER DISCUSSION: Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a. What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- b. Was there a question you didn't like?
- c. Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- d. What did you like talking about?
- e. Which was the most difficult question?

SPEAKING

MIDDLE EAST: You are a top advisor to the political leaders in the Middle East. Agree on a joint statement with your fellow advisors on the following issues. Outline the problems connected to these issues and your solutions:

	PROBLEMS	SOLUTIONS
An Arab economic union with a single currency.		
Ethnic and political rivalries among Arab countries.		
Iraq		
Making the Middle East nuclear free.		
The creation of a Palestinian state.		
Enhanced education for Arab nations to meet the global challenges ahead		

- Change partners. Share and compare your ideas. Give each other advice on how to improve your solutions.
- Change partners. Role play a discussion. You outline and defend your ideas and solutions, your partner picks holes in them.
- Discuss what you really think about these issues.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information on the Gulf Cooperation Council. Share your findings with your class in the next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

3. MIDDLE EAST: Make a poster outlining the four biggest problems currently facing the Middle East. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all include / write about similar things?

4. LETTER: Write a letter to the head of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Tell him what you think member countries should do to forge ahead in the world. Show what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Did everyone write about similar things?

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

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

SYNONYM MATCH:

a. wrapped up	concluded
b. key	pivotal
c. proliferation	mushrooming
d. stopped short	failed
e. peril	danger
f. prosperous	affluent
g. embers	ashes
h. denounced	condemned
i. flagrant	blatant
j. excel	shine

PHRASE MATCH:

a. wrapped	up their 26th GCC summit
b. a series of landmark decisions	on a broad range of key areas
c. Concerns were repeatedly voiced over	the proliferation of nuclear arms
d. stopped short of specifically	mentioning Iran
e. the weapons-free	equation
f. high	on the agenda
g. emerge from the embers	of dictatorship
h. in flagrant violation	of Islamic and Arab principles
i. enhance education to	confront global challenges
j. make the region	excel worldwide

GAP FILL:

Arab Gulf nations call for nuclear-free region

Leaders of six Arab states **wrapped** up their 26th Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit in Abu Dhabi on Monday. They made a series of **landmark** decisions on a broad range of key areas, such as defence, the forming of a nuclear free region, **greater** economic integration, terrorism and peace in the Middle East. Concerns were repeatedly **voiced** over the proliferation of nuclear arms and weapons of mass destruction in the region. Members called on Israel to **declare** itself a nuclear-free state but stopped **short** of specifically mentioning Iran in the weapons-free equation. A spokesman said: "We have confidence in Iran, but we don't want to see the Iranian nuclear **reactor**, which is closer to our coast than to Tehran, as a cause of **peril** and damage to us."

Iraq was **high** on the agenda of issues discussed. All member states expressed their hopes that a new, peaceful and **prosperous** Iraq would emerge from the **embers** of dictatorship, invasions and occupation. The Council condemned all acts of terrorism on people and infrastructure in Iraq. It denounced "the deliberate **mass** killing of Iraqis...and detainees...committed by the former Iraqi regime". The Council also said "unearthed mass **graves** are in flagrant **violation** of...Islamic and Arab principles, ethics and values". The summit adopted the 'Abu Dhabi Declaration', which stresses the need to **enhance** education to confront global challenges and make the region **excel** worldwide. The GCC consists of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.