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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 25/05/14

Iranian 'Happy' video dancers released, but not director

Recently six dancers were arrested in Iran after creating a tribute video to the Pharrell Williams 'Happy' video. The group of three men and three unveiled women dance to the number one hit in various Tehran locations*.

The Iranians were accused of making an "obscene" video that "offended the public morals" in Iran. Yet Iran's President tweets "#Happiness is our people's right". The hashtag #FreeHappyIranians went viral on Twitter.

Tehran Police Chief Hossein Sajedinia said, "After a vulgar clip which hurt public chastity was released in cyberspace, police decided to identify those involved in making that clip. All the suspects were identified and arrested." He added, "They have confessed to their criminal acts".

The *BBC* reported on Tuesday that Iranian TV had shown the men and women confessing on TV, though their faces were not visible.

Women in Iran have compulsorily had to wear hijabs since 1979. Not wearing a hijab is punishable by fines, imprisonment or lashes. It appears that 'Happiness' for young people, especially women, is banned in Iran!

Singer Pharrell Williams denounced the arrests. He tweeted his dismay: "It's beyond sad these kids were arrested for trying to spread happiness."

The dancers arrests came a day after the Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said, "Citizens should take advantage of the internet".

Following an international backlash the good news is that all six dancers have been freed. The director of the video has not been freed. Incidentally the video has gone viral. It is great!

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Do you know the popular song 'Happy' sung by Pharrell Williams? Have you seen the video or any of the tribute videos of it? Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Name the singer.
- 2) Name the city.
- 3) What was the hashtag?
- 4) Name the Police Chief.
- 5) What is the latest in this story?

Student B questions

- 1) What did the BBC report?
- 2) What happened in 1979?
- 3) Name the president.
- 4) What did the singer say?
- 5) What happened to the dancers and director?

* Watch the video!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RYnLRf-SNxY>

**Category: Iran / 'Happy' video / Tribute Video
Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

Iranian 'Happy' video dancers released... - 25th May 2014

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Happy!**' *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs - Think of three things about the Pharrell Williams hit song '*Happy*'. Write them below. Talk about them.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs, - Five songs with the word '*Happy*' in them.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs, - Discuss the following...

- 1) Life in Iran today for young people.
- 2) Why can't young women in Iran wear what they want?
- 3) Is happiness banned in Iran?

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Have you heard the song 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams?
- 3) Have you watched the Iranian tribute video?
- 4) What do you think of the Iranian tribute video?
- 5) Why is 'happiness' for young people banned in Iran? Explain!
- 6) Was the Iranian video vulgar and obscene? Explain!
- 7) Why shouldn't young Iranian women be free to wear what they want in their own country?
- 8) Why do religious old men in Iran like to control the country's young people?
- 9) Is it right women can be lashed for not wearing a hijab?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. There are up to four guests. You are in the CNN International Tehran studio. Today's interview is: *Iranian 'Happy' video dancers released, but not director.* 10 mins.

- 4) Tehran Police Chief Hossein Sajedinia.
- 5) A young person from Tehran.
- 6) A young person from the west.
- 7) A hard-line Iranian cleric.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. Student A is CNN news reporter in Tehran. Student B is one of the dancers in the tribute video. Talk about the video and the arrest to the reporter. 5 mins.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs, - Ten things that make you happy!

SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Iranian 'Happy' video dancers released, but not director - Google it!

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What you do think about what you've read?
- 2) Why has there been an international backlash?
- 3) What happened to the director?
- 4) How can you help the young people of Iran?
- 5) Will you be going on holiday to Iran this year?
- 6) What do you think of the dancers being arrested and 'forced to confess to their criminal acts'?
- 7) Why did the Iranian police arrest the dancers?
- 8) What right have the Iranian religious leaders to arrest young Iranian dancers for simply enjoying themselves?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Iranian 'Happy' video dancers released, but not director

Recently six dancers were arrested in Iran after creating a tribute video to the Pharrell Williams '(1)___' video. The group of three men and three unveiled women dance to the number one hit in various Tehran locations***.

The Iranians were accused of making an "(2)___" video that "offended the (3)___" in Iran. Yet Iran's President tweets "#Happiness is our people's right". The hashtag #FreeHappyIranians went (4)___ on Twitter.

Tehran Police Chief Hossein Sajedinia said, "After a (5)___ clip which hurt (6)___ was released in (7)___, police decided to identify those involved in making that (8)___." All the suspects were identified and arrested." He added, "They have confessed to their criminal acts".

clip / happy / viral / public morals / vulgar / obscene / public chastity / cyberspace

The *BBC* reported on Tuesday that Iranian TV had shown the men and women confessing on TV, though their faces were not (1)___.

Women in Iran have compulsorily had to wear (2)___ since 1979. Not wearing a hijab is punishable by fines, imprisonment or lashes. It appears that 'Happiness' for young people, especially women, is banned in Iran!

Singer Pharrell Williams denounced the arrests. He tweeted his (3)___: "It's beyond sad these kids were arrested for trying to (4)___ happiness."

The dancers arrests came a day after the Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said, "(5)___ should take advantage of the internet".

Following an international (6)___ the good news is that all six dancers have been freed. The director of the video has not been freed. (7)___ the video has gone viral. It is (8)___!

great / citizens / hijabs / visible / dismay / backlash / spread / incidentally

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Iranian 'Happy' video dancers released, but not director

Recently six dancers were arrested in Iran (1)___ creating a tribute video to the Pharrell Williams 'Happy' video. The group of three men and three unveiled women dance to the number one hit in various Tehran locations***.

The Iranians were accused of making an "obscene" video (2)___ "offended the public morals" in Iran. (3)___ Iran's President tweets "#Happiness is (4)___ people's right". The hashtag #FreeHappyIranians went viral on Twitter.

Tehran Police Chief Hossein Sajedinia said, "After a vulgar clip (5)___ hurt public chastity was released in cyberspace, police decided to identify (6)___ involved in making that clip. All the suspects were identified and arrested." He added, "(7)___ have confessed to (8)___ criminal acts".

those / after / they / that / yet / our / their / which

The *BBC* reported on Tuesday that Iranian TV had shown the men and women confessing (1)___ TV, though their faces were not visible.

Women in Iran have compulsorily had to wear hijabs since 1979. Not wearing a hijab is punishable by fines, imprisonment (2)___ lashes. It appears that 'Happiness' for young people, especially women, is banned (3)___ Iran!

Singer Pharrell Williams denounced the arrests. (4)___ tweeted (5)___ dismay: "It's beyond sad these kids were arrested (6)___ trying to spread happiness."

The dancers arrests came a day after the Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said, "Citizens should take advantage of the internet".

Following (7)___ international backlash the good news is that all six dancers have been freed. The director of the video has not been freed. Incidentally (8)___ video has gone viral. It is great!

the / for / his / or / he / on / in / an

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Iranian 'Happy' video dancers released, but not director

_____ were arrested in Iran after creating a tribute video to the Pharrell Williams 'Happy' video. The group of three men and three unveiled women dance to the number one hit in _____ ***.

The Iranians were accused of making an "obscene" video that "_____ " in Iran. Yet Iran's President tweets "#Happiness is our people's right". The hashtag #FreeHappyIranians went viral on Twitter.

Tehran Police Chief Hossein Sajedinia said, "After a vulgar clip which _____ was released in cyberspace, police decided to identify those involved in making that clip. All the suspects were identified and arrested." He added, "They have confessed to _____".

The BBC reported on Tuesday that Iranian TV had shown the _____ on TV, though their faces were not visible.

Women in Iran have compulsorily had to wear hijabs since 1979. _____ is punishable by fines, imprisonment or lashes. It appears that 'Happiness' for young people, especially women, is banned in Iran!

Singer Pharrell Williams denounced the arrests. He tweeted his dismay: "_____ kids were arrested for trying to spread happiness."

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - In pairs, as a class - write down 20 different things you know about Iran. Talk about them! 5 mins.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) The video _____
- 2) The dancers _____
- 3) The hashtag _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Iranian 'Happy' video**. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) happy
- 2) obscene
- 3) public morals
- 4) viral
- 5) vulgar
- 6) public chastity
- 7) cyberspace
- 8) clip

ANSWERS

- 1) visible
- 2) hijabs
- 3) dismay
- 4) spread
- 5) citizens
- 6) backlash
- 7) incidentally
- 8) fantastic

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) happiness
- 2) tribute
- 3) unveiled
- 4) Tehran
- 5) locations
- 6) Iranians
- 7) obscene
- 8) public morals
- 9) yet
- 10) hashtag

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) vulgar
- 12) public chastity
- 13) identify
- 14) cyberspace
- 15) compulsorily
- 16) hijabs
- 17) punishable
- 18) dismay
- 19) backlash
- 20) incidentally

Iranian 'Happy' video dancers released... - 25th May 2014