

www.newsflashenglish.com

The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 10/02/15

New Suez Canal for Egypt

A new Suez Canal is being built in Egypt. It will run alongside the current Suez Canal. The idea is simple – by building a second canal it will allow the number of ships passing through to practically double, thus increasing trade. This will mean a lot more money coming into the Egyptian economy.

The idea is the brainchild of Egypt's President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi who is hoping the new second canal will kickstart the country's ailing economy. For the last few years it has been down on its knees; due to the Arab Spring happening and ultimately then falling flat on its face.

The Egyptian President actually broke ground last August, at a ceremony that was full of pomp and patriotism. It included jets flying overhead. President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi promised the second Suez Canal would be 'a channel of prosperity'.

The original Suez Canal opened in 1869. It took 10 years to build. The new waterway will take just one year. Egyptian officials hope the first ship will navigate through it in August 2015.

The Suez Canal links the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. It is the fastest shipping lane between Europe and Asia. It handles 7% of global-sea borne trade. It is Egypt's main source of foreign currency income.

Some US\$8.5bn was raised for the project. It hopes to raise US\$13.2bn by 2023. It will be 72km long including bypasses. The number of ships passing through it will increase from 49 to 97. The southbound transit will reduce from 18 hours to just 11 hours. The new canal has been dubbed "the Great Egyptian Dream". It aims to be the rebirth of Egypt. Like in the past, the country's fate will be linked to the canal.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about the Suez Canal. 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) Where is Egypt?
- 2) Name the president of Egypt.
- 3) What was opened in 1869?
- 4) What was the Arab Spring?
- 5) What do Egyptian officials hope?

Student B questions

- 1) What has the new canal been dubbed?
- 2) How many ships will be able to pass through when the canal is built?
- 3) How long did the original canal take to build?
- 4) What does the Suez Canal link?
- 5) How long does it take to pass through the Suez Canal? Will this change?

Category: Egypt / Suez Canal / Business
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

New Suez Canal for Egypt – 10th February 2015

WRITING / SPEAKING

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

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs - Choose three advantages the new Suez Canal will bring. Write them below. Talk about them!

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

Add three disadvantages the new Suez Canal will bring. Discuss together.

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

Add three other famous canals. Discuss together. How do they compare with the Suez Canal?

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

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

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Will the new Suez Canal benefit Egypt?
- 3) Why has the new canal been commissioned by the Egyptian president?
- 4) Do you think the new canal will be completed by August 2015?
- 5) Why is the Suez Canal so important?
- 6) Have you ever been on the Suez Canal?
- 7) Have you been on holiday to Egypt?
- 8) Would you consider a holiday along the River Nile in Egypt?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson?
- 10) Have you learnt anything today?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Egypt FM* radio studio in Cairo. Today's interview is about: *New Suez Canal for Egypt.*

- 1) President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi.
- 2) A cargo ships captain.
- 3) An Egyptian canal worker.
- 4) A tourist in Egypt.

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

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. One of you is in an internet café in your country. The other is in another country. Start a conversation that compares the Suez Canal and the Panama Canal. *5 mins.*

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 3

Student A - You are a reporter. You are at the new Suez Canal reporting on its development during its construction. *Student B* is an engineer who is building the new canal. *Student A* interviews *Student B*. *3-5 mins.*

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

New Suez Canal for Egypt

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Will the new channel bring prosperity to Egypt?
- 3) Is Egypt now recovering from the Arab Spring? Explain.
- 4) Would you consider a holiday in Egypt? Explain.
- 5) What might you see along the shore of the Suez Canal?
- 6) How will the Suez Canal benefit Egypt's economy?
- 7) What else is Egypt famous for?
- 8) Do you think the Panama Canal does more trade than the Suez Canal?
- 9) Why are canals built?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

New Suez Canal for Egypt

A new Suez Canal is being built in Egypt. It will run alongside the current Suez Canal. The idea is simple – by building a second canal it will allow the number of ships passing through to practically (1)__, thus increasing trade. This will mean a lot more money coming into the Egyptian economy.

The idea is the (2)__ of Egypt's President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi who is hoping the new second canal will (3)__ the country's ailing economy. For the last few years it has been down on its (4)__; due to the Arab Spring happening and (5)__ then falling flat on its face.

The Egyptian President actually broke ground last August, at a (6)__ that was full of (7)__ and patriotism. It included jets flying overhead. President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi promised the second Suez Canal would be 'a channel of (8)_'.

prosperity / brainchild / ceremony / knees / kickstart / double / ultimately / pomp

The original Suez Canal opened in 1869. It took 10 years to build. The new (1)__ will take just one year. Egyptian officials hope the first ship will (2)__ through it in August 2015.

The Suez Canal links the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. It is the fastest shipping lane between Europe and Asia. It handles 7% of global-sea borne trade. It is Egypt's main source of foreign currency income.

Some US\$8.5bn was raised for the (3)__. It hopes to raise US\$13.2bn by 2023. It will be 72km long including (4)__. The number of (5)__ passing through it will increase from 49 to 97. The southbound (6)__ will reduce from 18 hours to just 11 hours. The new canal has been dubbed "the Great Egyptian Dream". It aims to be the (7)__ of Egypt. Like in the past, the country's (8)__ will be linked to the canal.

rebirth / bypasses / fate / transit / waterway / project / ships / navigate

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

New Suez Canal for Egypt

A new Suez Canal is being built in Egypt. It will run alongside the current Suez Canal. The idea is simple – by building a second canal it will allow the number of ships passing through to practically double, (1)__ increasing trade. (2)__ will mean a lot (3)__ money coming (4)__ the Egyptian economy.

The idea is the brainchild of Egypt's President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi who is hoping the new second canal will kickstart the country's ailing economy. For the last few years it has been down on its knees; (5)__ to the Arab Spring happening and ultimately (6)__ falling flat on its face.

The Egyptian President actually broke ground last August, at a ceremony (7)__ was full of pomp and patriotism. It included jets flying overhead. President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi promised the second Suez Canal (8)__ be 'a channel of prosperity'.

would / then / this / thus / that / more / due / into

The original Suez Canal opened in 1869. It took 10 years to build. The new waterway will take (1)__ one year. Egyptian officials hope the first ship will navigate through it in August 2015.

The Suez Canal links the Mediterranean (2)__ the Red Sea. It is (3)__ fastest shipping lane between Europe and Asia. It handles 7% of global-sea borne trade. It is Egypt's main source (4)__ foreign currency income.

Some US\$8.5bn was raised (5)__ the project. (6)__ hopes to raise US\$13.2bn (7)__ 2023. It will be 72km long including bypasses. The number of ships passing through it will increase from 49 to 97. The southbound transit will reduce from 18 hours to just 11 hours. The new canal has been dubbed "the Great Egyptian Dream". It aims to be the rebirth of Egypt. Like (8)__ the past, the country's fate will be linked to the canal.

it / in / by / of / for / the / and / just

GAP FILL: LISTENING

New Suez Canal for Egypt

A new Suez Canal is being built in Egypt. It will run alongside the _____. The idea is simple – by building a second canal it will allow the number of ships passing through to practically double, thus increasing trade. This will mean a lot more money coming into _____.

The idea is the brainchild of Egypt's President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi who is hoping the new second canal will kickstart the country's _____. For the last few years it has been down on its knees; due to _____ happening and ultimately then falling flat on its face.

The Egyptian President actually broke ground last August, at a ceremony that was full of pomp and patriotism. It included jets flying overhead. President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi promised the second Suez Canal would be 'a _____'.

The original Suez Canal opened in 1869. It took 10 years to build. _____ will take just one year. Egyptian officials hope the first ship will navigate through it in August 2015.

The Suez Canal links _____ and the Red Sea. It is the fastest shipping lane between Europe and Asia. It handles 7% of global-sea borne trade. It is Egypt's main source of _____.

Some US\$8.5bn was raised for the project. It hopes to raise US\$13.2bn by 2023. It will be 72km long including bypasses. The number of ships passing through it will increase from 49 to 97. The _____ will reduce from 18 hours to just 11 hours. The new canal has been dubbed "the Great Egyptian Dream". It aims to be the rebirth of Egypt. Like in the past, _____ will be linked to the canal.

www.newsflashenglish.com

Copyright D.J. Robinson 2015 (V1)

WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs*, list 20 things you know about Egypt. *Five minutes. Talk about each of them.*

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

- 1) The Suez Canal _____
- 2) The second Suez _____
- 3) Egypt _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **New Suez Canal for Egypt.** Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) double
- 2) brainchild
- 3) kickstart
- 4) knees
- 5) ultimately
- 6) ceremony
- 7) pomp
- 8) prosperity

ANSWERS

- 1) waterway
- 2) navigate
- 3) project
- 4) bypasses
- 5) ships
- 6) transit
- 7) rebirth
- 8) fate

SPELLING

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

- 1) brainchild
- 2) kickstart
- 3) canal
- 4) ceremony
- 5) economy
- 6) knees
- 7) ultimately
- 8) actually
- 9) pomp
- 10) patriotism

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) prosperity
- 12) original
- 13) waterway
- 14) just
- 15) officials
- 16) navigate
- 17) through
- 18) bypasses
- 19) southbound
- 20) practically

New Suez Canal for Egypt – *10th February 2015*