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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 05/11/13

Saudi driving ban for women

Today let's talk about women not being allowed to drive a car in Saudi Arabia. Can you imagine a woman in your country not being allowed to drive a car simply because she is a woman? It's hard to imagine!

Saudi women have been and still are threatened with immediate arrest or possible legal action if they are caught behind a wheel of a car. So far, the threats have failed. Saudi women continue to flout the ban.

Saudi Arabia is the only country in the world to ban women drivers. It should be noted that while there is no actual law stating women cannot drive, only men are granted driving licences! Influential clerics have even called on police to stop the women drivers from demonstrating.

In response, Saudi comedians have released a satirical song on video called 'No Woman, No Drive'. It pokes fun at Saudi Arabia's ban on women drivers and is based on the Bob Marley song 'No Woman No Cry'. So far, more than 9 million people have watched the video.

The video was created by Hisham Fageeh who is an Arab-American comedian living in Saudi Arabia. It is an apparent dig at the country's conservative authorities. In it he uses no musical instruments, as they are frowned on by a minority of hardliners. Instead he sings acapella; with whistling, finger snaps and beard scratching to create the melody.

The song mocks the recent comments from a Saudi cleric who claimed driving could damage a woman's ovaries and her chances of having children. If nothing more the video proves some Saudis do have a sense of humour! Meanwhile the world watches and does nothing. It is all about the control of women by men!

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about women drivers in Saudi Arabia. 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 country.
- 2) Name the songs.
- 3) Name the comedian.
- 4) What does acapella mean?
- 5) Who is trying to control who?

Student B questions

- 1) Who is banned from driving?
- 2) What is frowned on and by whom?
- 3) Who pokes fun and at what?
- 4) What are ovaries?
- 5) What did the Saudi cleric claim?

Watch the video!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZMbTFNp4wI>

For the opposite viewpoint see the following link!

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/nov/02/saudi-protest-driving-ban-not-popular>

Category: Saudi Arabia / Women Drivers / Driving Ban
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

Saudi driving ban for women – 5th November 2013

WRITING / SPEAKING

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

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Think of three things you would advise Saudi women about the driving ban issue. Write them below. Talk about them!

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

Add three you would tell the Saudi clerics about this issue. Discuss together.

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

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

SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

In pairs – Student A is a Saudi cleric. Student B is a Saudi woman. You are discussing your thoughts on the Saudi driving ban 2-5 mins.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Should women be allowed to drive in Saudi Arabia?
- 3) What advice would you give the Saudi cleric?
- 4) Why are Saudi driving licences only issued to Saudi men rather than women?
- 5) What do you think of the song?
- 6) What response will the Saudi government make to this video?
- 7) Why is Saudi Arabia so conservative?
- 8) Do you think women in Saudi Arabia might one day be allowed to drive?
- 9) Why are musical instruments frowned on in Saudi Arabia?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *BBC Arabic* TV studio. Today's interview is about: *Saudi driving ban for women!*

- 1) A Saudi woman driver.
- 2) A woman driver in your country.
- 3) A Saudi man.
- 4) A Saudi comedian.

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

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. You are in a café in London. Start a conversation about the 'Saudi driving ban for women. 5 mins.

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

Should women be allowed to drive in Saudi Arabia? Yes or No?

(Google it first!)

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Should a Saudi woman be arrested for driving a car in her country?
- 3) Are Saudi women allowed to drive in other countries outside of Saudi Arabia?
- 4) How would you feel if your government banned women from driving?
- 5) According to the Saudi cleric women get damaged ovaries if they drive a car – True or false? Explain!
- 6) Do Saudis have a sense of humour?
- 7) Why are influential clerics calling on Saudi police to stop women drivers from demonstrating?
- 8) What does this news story tell us?
- 9) Have you enjoyed this lesson?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Saudi driving ban for women

Today let's talk about women not being allowed to drive a car in Saudi Arabia. Can you imagine a woman in your country not being allowed to drive a car simply because she is a woman? It's hard to imagine!

Saudi women have been and still are threatened with immediate (1)___ or possible legal action if they are caught behind a wheel of a car. So far, the (2)___ have failed. Saudi women continue to (3)___ the (4)___.

Saudi Arabia is the only country in the world to ban women drivers. It should be noted that while there is no actual law stating women cannot drive, only men are granted driving (5)___! (6)___ (7)___ have even called on police to stop the women (8)___ from demonstrating.

drivers / ban / arrest / flout / licences / clerics / influential / threats

In response, Saudi (1)___ have released a satirical song on video called 'No Woman, No Drive'. It pokes fun at Saudi Arabia's ban on women drivers and is based on the Bob Marley song 'No Woman No Cry'. So far, more than 9 million people have watched the video.

The video was created by Hisham Fageeh who is an Arab-American comedian living in Saudi Arabia. It is an apparent (2)___ at the country's conservative (3)___ . In it he uses no musical instruments, as they are frowned on by a minority of (4)___ . Instead he sings (5)___ ; with whistling, finger snaps and (6)___ scratching to create the melody.

The song mocks the recent comments from a Saudi cleric who claimed driving could (7)___ a woman's (8)___ and her chances of having children. If nothing more the video proves some Saudis do have a sense of humour! Meanwhile the world watches and does nothing. It is all about the control of women by men!

dig / ovaries / hardliners / authorities / beard / acapella / damage / comedians

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Saudi driving ban for women

Today let's talk about women not being allowed to drive a car in Saudi Arabia. Can you imagine a woman in (1)___ country not being allowed to drive a car simply because she is a woman? It's hard to imagine!

Saudi women have been and (2)___ are threatened with immediate arrest or possible legal action if (3)___ are caught behind a wheel of a car. So far, the threats have failed. Saudi women continue to flout the ban.

Saudi Arabia is the only country in the world to ban women drivers. It (4)___ be noted that (5)___ there is no actual law stating women cannot drive, (6)___ men are granted driving licences! Influential clerics have (7)___ called on police to stop the women drivers (8)___ demonstrating.

only / from / still / even / while / should / your / they /

(1)___ response, Saudi comedians have released a satirical song on video called 'No Woman, No Drive'. It pokes fun at Saudi Arabia's ban (2)___ women drivers and is based on the Bob Marley song 'No Woman No Cry'. So far, more than 9 million people have watched the video.

The video was created by Hisham Fageeh who is an Arab-American comedian living in Saudi Arabia. It is an apparent dig at the country's conservative authorities. In it (3)___ uses no musical instruments, (4)___ they are frowned on by a minority (5)___ hardliners. Instead he sings acapella; with whistling, finger snaps and beard scratching to create the melody.

The song mocks the recent comments from a Saudi cleric who claimed driving could damage a woman's ovaries and her chances of having children. (6)___ nothing more the video proves some Saudis do have a sense of humour! Meanwhile the world watches and does nothing. (7)___ is all about the control of women (8)___ men!

by / if / as / in / he / on / of / it

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Saudi driving ban for women

Today let's talk about women not being allowed to drive a _____. Can you imagine a woman in your country not being allowed to drive a car simply because she is a woman?

It's hard to imagine! Saudi women have been and still are threatened with _____ possible legal action if they are caught behind _____.

So far, the threats have failed. Saudi women continue to flout the ban. Saudi Arabia is the only country in the world to ban women drivers. It should be noted that while there is _____ women cannot drive, only men are granted driving licences! _____ have even called on police to stop the women drivers from demonstrating.

In response, _____ have released a satirical song on video called 'No Woman, No Drive'. It pokes fun at Saudi Arabia's ban on women drivers and is based on the Bob Marley song 'No Woman No Cry'. So far, more than 9 million people have watched the video. The video was created by Hisham Fageeh who is an Arab-American comedian living in Saudi Arabia. It is an apparent dig at the country's _____. In it he uses no musical instruments, as they are frowned on by a _____. Instead he sings acapella; with whistling, finger snaps and beard scratching to create the melody. The song mocks the recent comments from a Saudi cleric who claimed driving could damage a _____ her chances of having children. If nothing more the video proves some Saudis do have _____! Meanwhile the world watches and does nothing. It is all about the control of women by men!

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

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

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

- 1) Saudi women _____
- 2) The Saudi cleric _____
- 3) The Saudi government _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Saudi driving ban for women.** Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) arrest
- 2) threats
- 3) flout
- 4) ban
- 5) licences
- 6) influential
- 7) clerics
- 8) drivers

SPELLING

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

- 1) comedian
- 2) response
- 3) satirical
- 4) Saudi Arabia
- 5) conservative
- 6) authorities
- 7) instruments
- 8) minority
- 9) hardliners
- 10) instead

ANSWERS

- 1) comedians
- 2) dig
- 3) authorities
- 4) hardliners
- 5) acapella
- 6) beard
- 7) damage
- 8) ovaries

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) acapella
- 12) whistling
- 13) beard
- 14) melody
- 15) mocks
- 16) comments
- 17) ovaries
- 18) humour
- 19) meanwhile
- 20) immediate