

10 IRAQ Wedding Fire

Wedding Joy Into A Deadly Tragedy in IRAQ

LIVE ESL – APIBECI

WORLD NEWS

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IRAQ: Wedding Fire

Wedding Joy Into A Deadly Tragedy in IRAQ

Pre – Test

Identify the meaning of the underlined words in each sentence. Choose from the choices below.

- _____ 1 The fire quickly turned into a **raging** inferno.
a. uncontrollable; violent b. slow
- _____ 2 That area is not good, it is on the brink of **catastrophe**.
a. luck b. disaster; tragedy
- _____ 3 The most common forms of corruption witnessed were cronyism and **nepotism**.
a. favoritism; bias b. enthusiastic
- _____ 4 He reminds me of the man with a **sandwich board** who goes round proclaiming that the world will end tomorrow.
a. display board b. plastic
- _____ 5 He found a **charred** body beside the remnants of burned houses last night.
a. wet b. burned
- _____ 6 You'll have to **abide** by the rules of the company.
a. obey b. accept
- _____ 7 They had their wedding **reception** at a hotel.
a. celebration or gathering b. expulsion
- _____ 8 The damage was enormous and the **death toll** was heavy.
a. wounded; dead; loss b. misery
- _____ 9 Her heart raced as she **frantically** searched for a place to hide.
a. desperately; wildly b. calmly
- _____ 10 Our neighbor is a **tight knit** family, they are always there for each other.
a. close or friendly b. under pressure
- _____ 11 The fire was **ignited** by the lighted cigarette butt near the smoking area.
a. blown away b. burned up
- _____ 12 Celebrations in the Philippines mostly used **pyrotechnic** displays.
a. relating to fireworks b. flower arrangement
- _____ 13 He is **skeptical** of the result of his entrance exam in the university.
a. positive b. doubtful or uncertain
- _____ 14 He is an **indicative** type of a person, that's why he got the job.
a. suggestive or expressive b. uninformative

01

Reading

You are looking at a deadly fire **raging** through a banquet hall in Northern Iraq. It happened during a wedding **reception**, more than 100 people died and 150 others were injured. The cause of the fire is unknown and reporter Rebecca Collard is tracking this story for us. She joins us live so Rebecca, you've been in contact with people in the region who had relatives in that hall. What are they telling you?

"People are describing a situation in this village of Qaraqosh also called Al-Hamdaniya as really chaos and tragedy this morning. One woman described to me that there was a funeral in every neighborhood saying that almost every family in this Christian town had lost at least a couple of relatives in this tragic fire overnight. Now she was standing outside the hospital looking for her own relative. She had lost several of her own relatives and was hoping to find information about other relatives of hers that were missing. One of the tragedies here, one of the reasons I think, authorities are also saying this **death toll** could rise because of the fact that this one hospital in the town of Qaraqosh could not deal with so many injured people so they have been sent to the city of Mosul to Duhok and to Erbil. People are **frantically** looking for their relatives and also this death toll is starting to rise. Now she also described for me another really tragic detail of this **catastrophe**. There are so many people in that home, so many of them are from this **tight-knit** community. This morning, she was receiving these images of charred bodies and people asking her if she could identify the bodies."

"You can really hear the grief in her voice and that is the grief I think that is being echoed across this community after this tragedy overnight."

Rebecca, what more are people saying about the fire, the cause, and of course the investigation?

"What we have heard from witnesses that were inside when this fire started was that there was some sort of **pyrotechnic**, some sort of fireworks that were lit off as this couple started their slow dance. Those hit the roof and very quickly **ignited** in form. There is this cheap building material called **sandwich board**, they use in many places in Iraq and apparently it was some sort of material like that was covering the ceiling. The fire spread so quickly, now what the other people have said is that when that happened people tried to escape. There were hundreds, maybe as much as more than a thousand people inside this hall, we really don't know if they tried to escape. There were not enough exits for people to leave. People talk about having doors actually blocked and actually seeing people trying to break through the walls to allow people to escape. There is hope that there will be an investigation. The government promised an investigation. It is also promised to arrest the owner of this hall but I'll take two things about that. First of all, this is when I reported from this part of rock a lot. This sort of situation is not an incident, it is a structural problem that people were talking about today that there are not enough safety standards. That the safety centers that are in place are not **abided** by. Because of these reasons, I think this tragedy is really **indicative** of a much bigger problem in that area. And the last thing is in regards to the investigation, there's hope that people will be brought to justice for this tragedy but I also know that because of the high levels of corruption and **nepotism** in Iraq. I think people are very **skeptical** that justice will really be served for the large number of victims that have died in this tragedy."

02

Activity

A1 | Pair Me Up

Match the words on the first column to its corresponding meaning on the second column.

SKEPTICAL	1 _____	A uncontrollable
INDICATIVE	2 _____	B place for celebration
NEPOTISM	3 _____	C wounded; dead; loss
SANDWICH BOARD	4 _____	D wildly; desperately
CHARRED	5 _____	E disaster; tragedy
TIGHT-KNIT	6 _____	F close relationship
CATASTROPHE	7 _____	G burned
DEATH TOLL	8 _____	H burn up
RAGING	9 _____	I display boards
RECEPTION	10 _____	J obey; adhere to; follow
FRANTICALLY	11 _____	K characteristics; showing
ABIDED	12 _____	L doubtful
IGNITE	13 _____	M favoritism; bias
PYROTECHNIC	14 _____	N relating to fireworks

A2 | Right Words

Complete the sentence by choosing the word that fits the context. Choose from the words above.

- 1 When I said I'd finished my homework early, Mom looked _____.
- 2 She was accused of _____ when she made her nephew an officer of the firm.
- 3 The _____ body of a man was found by police in a burned-out car last night.
- 4 The oil spill is one the worst environmental _____.
- 5 The virus' _____ is expected to rise.

03

Speak Up

You are welcome to authentically share your thoughts as you go through the following questions.

1

Imagine yourself trapped inside a blazing building, what would be the first thing that you should do?

2

What are the things to be considered in building a party hall?

3

Do you believe in the hearsays that the “end is near”? Why? Why not?




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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Awareness is key to prevent catastrophic mistakes.



The Creative Box; Draw something, write something, do anything to this box – let yourself be free with the box. 

KEY ANSWERS

1L 2K 3M 4I 5G 6F 7E 8C 9A 10B 11D 12J 13H 14N

1 skeptical – 2 nepotism – 3 charred – 4 catastrophe – 5 death toll

LESSON SUMMARY

READING + LISTENING + SPEAKING

1HR

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ASSESSMENT PROFICIENCY INFORMATION

STUDENT

SCORE

DATE



SCAN FOR EDUCARE.

