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Level 3

Tourist deported for Buddha tattoo

25th April, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1404/140425-cultural-awareness.html>



Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	14
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	15
Before Reading / Listening	4	Spelling	16
While Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	17
Match The Sentences And Listen	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	18
Listening Gap Fill	7	Circle The Correct Word	19
Comprehension Questions	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	20
Multiple Choice - Quiz	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	21
Role Play	10	Put A Slash (/) Where The Spaces Are	22
After Reading / Listening	11	Free Writing	23
Student Survey	12	Academic Writing	24
Discussion (20 Questions)	13	Homework	25
		Answers	26

Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1404/140425-cultural-awareness.html>

Sri Lanka will deport a British tourist for having a tattoo on her arm of the Buddha seated on a lotus flower. Naomi Coleman, 37, was arrested at Sri Lanka's international airport on Monday. She is currently at a centre in the airport waiting for a flight back to the U.K. Airport officials told Ms Coleman that her tattoo was disrespectful to Sri Lankan culture. A police spokesman said she was arrested for "hurting others' religious feelings". Most Sri Lankans are Buddhist and have deep respect for images and statues of Buddha. They would think anyone with a Buddha tattoo is culturally insensitive. Coleman said she practised Buddhism and did not think her tattoo would upset anyone.

This is not the first time that tourists have got in trouble for misunderstanding Sri Lankan culture. Another Briton was deported last year because he spoke disrespectfully when passport officials asked him about a Buddha tattoo on his arm. According to the BBC, three French tourists got prison sentences for kissing a Buddha statue. Britain's Independent newspaper reports that in 2010, R&B star Akon was told he could not get a visa to visit Sri Lanka because of a video for his song Sexy Chick. The video showed a pool party in front of a statue of Buddha. A British government website warns people who visit Sri Lanka not to pose for photos in front of statues of the Buddha.

Sources: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/south-asia/british-national-arrested-for-sporting-buddha-tattoo/article5938200.ece>
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/naomi-michelle-coleman-british-woman-3442053#ixzz2zg9XKUdT>
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/british-tourist-deported-from-sri-lanka-for-having-a-buddha-tattoo-9274681.html>

Level 3

Tourist deported for Buddha tattoo – 25th April

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2

WARM-UPS

1. SRI LANKA: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Sri Lanka. Change partners often and share your findings.

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

deport / lotus / airport / flight / disrespectful / religious feelings / statues / insensitive / not the first time / passport / prison sentences / newspaper reports / visa / pose

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. CULTURAL AWARENESS: Complete this table with your partner(s). Think of things to tell tourists in your country. Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Dos	Don'ts
Restaurants		
Clothes		
Beaches		
Religious places		
Alcohol		
Greeting people		

4. TATTOO: Students A **strongly** believe tattoos are great; Students B **strongly** believe they aren't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. CULTURAL NO-NO's: Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest cultural no-no's at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- spitting
- touching people's head
- kissing in public
- shouting
- chewing gum
- asking someone's age
- being drunk
- being late

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

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1404/140425-cultural-awareness.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. The tattoo was of Buddha sitting on top of a lotus flower. | T / F |
| b. The woman is waiting for a flight back to her last destination – India. | T / F |
| c. Officials said the tattoo showed no respect for Sri Lankan culture. | T / F |
| d. The woman practises Buddhism and thought the tattoo was OK. | T / F |
| e. This is the first time Sri Lanka has deported someone over a tattoo. | T / F |
| f. French tourists got prison sentences for kissing a statue of Buddha. | T / F |
| g. The R&B star got a visa for Sri Lanka to shoot a video for a song. | T / F |
| h. A British website said it's OK to pose for photos with a Buddha statue. | T / F |

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

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. seated | a. great |
| 2. currently | b. spend time in |
| 3. disrespectful | c. anger |
| 4. deep | d. presently |
| 5. upset | e. questioned |
| 6. trouble | f. cautions |
| 7. asked | g. sitting |
| 8. prison | h. rude |
| 9. visit | i. jail |
| 10. warns | j. difficulty |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. seated on a | a. to visit Sri Lanka |
| 2. waiting for a flight | b. statues of Buddha |
| 3. hurting others' | c. got in trouble |
| 4. images and | d. lotus flower |
| 5. culturally | e. back to the U.K. |
| 6. the first time that tourists have | f. sentences |
| 7. he spoke | g. for photos |
| 8. prison | h. insensitive |
| 9. he could not get a visa | i. disrespectfully |
| 10. pose | j. religious feelings |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1404/140425-cultural-awareness.html>

Sri Lanka will (1) _____ a British tourist for having a tattoo on her arm of the Buddha seated on a lotus flower. Naomi Coleman, 37, was (2) _____ at Sri Lanka's international airport on Monday. She is currently at a centre in the airport waiting for a (3) _____ back to the U.K. Airport officials told Ms Coleman that her tattoo was disrespectful to Sri Lankan (4) _____. A police spokesman said she was arrested for "hurting others' (5) _____ feelings". Most Sri Lankans are Buddhist and have deep respect for (6) _____ and statues of Buddha. They would think anyone with a Buddha tattoo is (7) _____ insensitive. Coleman said she practised Buddhism and did not think her tattoo would (8) _____ anyone.

culture
culturally
arrested
upset
deport
flight
religious
images

This is not the first time that tourists have got in (9) _____ for misunderstanding Sri Lankan culture. Another Briton was deported last year because he spoke disrespectfully when (10) _____ officials asked him about a Buddha tattoo on his arm. According to the BBC, three French tourists got (11) _____ sentences for kissing a Buddha statue. Britain's Independent newspaper (12) _____ that in 2010, R&B star Akon was told he could not get a (13) _____ to visit Sri Lanka because of a video for his song Sexy Chick. The video showed a pool party in front of a (14) _____ of Buddha. A British government website (15) _____ people who visit Sri Lanka not to (16) _____ for photos in front of statues of the Buddha.

visa
reports
passport
trouble
warns
pose
statue
prison

Level 3

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5

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1404/140425-cultural-awareness.html>

- 1) a tattoo on her arm of the Buddha seated on _____
 - a. a lotus flour
 - b. a lotus flower
 - c. a lotus flyer
 - d. a lotus flow are
- 2) She is currently at a centre in the airport waiting for _____ to the U.K.
 - a. a fight back
 - b. a flight backs
 - c. a flight back
 - d. a fightback
- 3) officials told Ms Coleman that her tattoo was disrespectful to _____
 - a. Sri Lankan cultured
 - b. Sri Lankan cultures
 - c. Sri Lankan cultural
 - d. Sri Lankan culture
- 4) A police spokesman said she was arrested for "hurting _____"
 - a. the others religious feelings
 - b. others' religion feelings
 - c. others' religious feeling
 - d. others' religious feelings
- 5) she practised Buddhism and did not think her tattoo _____
 - a. would upset anyone
 - b. would upsets anyone
 - c. would upset everyone
 - d. would upset anyone's
- 6) This is not the first time that tourists have _____
 - a. getting trouble
 - b. gotten trouble
 - c. got in trouble
 - d. get in trouble
- 7) Another Briton was deported last year because _____
 - a. he spoke disrespect fully
 - b. he spoke this respectfully
 - c. he spoke this respectful
 - d. he spoke disrespectfully
- 8) According to the BBC, three French tourists _____
 - a. got prison sentences
 - b. got prison paragraphs
 - c. got prison phrases
 - d. got prison clauses
- 9) R&B star Akon was told he could not get _____
 - a. a visit to visa
 - b. a visa to visit it
 - c. a visa to visit
 - d. a visa too visit
- 10) A British government website warns people who visit Sri Lanka not _____
 - a. to pose for photos
 - b. to prose for photos
 - c. to propose for photos
 - d. to purpose for photos

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6

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1404/140425-cultural-awareness.html>

Sri Lanka will deport a British tourist (1) _____ on her arm of the Buddha seated on a lotus flower. Naomi Coleman, 37, was arrested at Sri Lanka's international airport on Monday. She is currently at a centre in the airport waiting (2) _____ to the U.K. Airport officials told Ms Coleman that her tattoo (3) _____ Sri Lankan culture. A police spokesman said she was arrested for "hurting others' religious feelings". Most Sri Lankans are Buddhist and (4) _____ for images and statues of Buddha. They would think anyone with a Buddha tattoo is (5) _____. Coleman said she practised Buddhism and did not think her tattoo (6) _____.

This is (7) _____ that tourists have got in trouble for misunderstanding Sri Lankan culture. Another Briton was deported last year because he (8) _____ when passport officials asked him about a Buddha tattoo on his arm. According to the BBC, three French tourists got (9) _____ for kissing a Buddha statue. Britain's Independent newspaper reports that in 2010, R&B star Akon was told he could not (10) _____ Sri Lanka because of a video for his song Sexy Chick. The video showed a pool party (11) _____ of Buddha. A British government website warns people who visit Sri Lanka not (12) _____ in front of statues of the Buddha.

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7

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1404/140425-cultural-awareness.html>

1. Where on the woman's body was the tattoo?

2. Where are Sri Lankan authorities sending the woman to?

3. What did a police spokesman say she hurt?

4. What do most Sri Lankans have a deep respect for?

5. What did the woman practise?

6. What is the nationality of a man who was deported last year?

7. What did tourists from France get prison sentences for?

8. When was the pop star Akon denied a tourist visa to Sri Lanka?

9. What did Akon's video show in front of a statue of Buddha?

10. What did a website advise tourists not to do in front of Buddha statues?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1404/140425-cultural-awareness.html>

1. Where on the woman's body was the tattoo?
 - a) her lower back
 - b) her arm
 - c) her upper back
 - d) her ankle
2. Where are Sri Lankan authorities sending the woman to?
 - a) India
 - b) prison
 - c) the U.K.
 - d) a temple
3. What did a police spokesman say she hurt?
 - a) a prison guard
 - b) her finger
 - c) a passport official
 - d) religious feelings
4. What do most Sri Lankans have a deep respect for?
 - a) tourists
 - b) images and statues of Buddha
 - c) the police
 - d) trees
5. What did the woman practise?
 - a) Buddhism
 - b) Sinhalese
 - c) meditation
 - d) yoga
6. What is the nationality of a man who was deported last year?
 - a) British
 - b) Indian
 - c) Hungarian
 - d) Uruguayan
7. What did tourists from France get prison sentences for?
 - a) their tattoos
 - b) shouting at passport officers
 - c) doing graffiti
 - d) kissing a Buddha statue
8. When was the pop star Akon denied a tourist visa to Sri Lanka?
 - a) 2008
 - b) 2009
 - c) 2010
 - d) 2011
9. What did Akon's video show in front of a statue of Buddha?
 - a) an Apple computer
 - b) a naked body
 - c) chickens
 - d) a party
10. What did a website advise tourists not to do in front of Buddha statues?
 - a) eat or drink
 - b) pose for photos
 - c) wear shorts
 - d) dance