

New Pope chosen (Wed 20 Apr, 2005)

WARM-UPS

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about: Roman Catholic Church / the 265th Pope / 78-year-olds / tradition / homosexuality / gay marriage / abortion / contraception / speaking ten languages / brothers and sisters / prayers... For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

CATHOLIC BRAINSTORM: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the Catholic Church. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

MY RELIGIOUS LEADERS: Talk with your partner about your religious leaders. Who are they? Do you respect them? Do they do good work? Are they loved? Change partners / groups and inform your new partners of what your previous partner told you. Ask the same questions to your new partners.

OPINIONS: In pairs / groups, talk about whether or not you agree with these opinions:

- a. He's 78 - too old.
- b. I want him to be like Pope John Paul II and teach that contraception, abortion and the death penalty are bad things.
- c. I hope he continues John Paul's work and talk to other religions and make peace with them. We need to accept and love everybody.
- d. I expected a younger Pope who might be with us for 25 years or more.
- e. A disaster for Africa, overpopulation, AIDs sufferers and gay people in love.
- f. Pope Benedict teaches what the Bible says. We need to stick to Christ's teachings, not follow today's trends.
- g. This is God's choice. He knows who the best person is.
- h. Give the guy a chance. He's just got the job!
- i. What a pity. Another European Pope.

WHEN I'M 78: In pairs / groups, talk about what you think you will be doing when you are 78 years old. Do you think you would want to take on new responsibilities such as leading 1.1 billion people?

PRE-READING IDEAS

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'Roman' and 'Catholic'.

TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true or false:

- a. A non-European has been elected as the new Pope. T / F
- b. A young man has been elected as the new Pope. T / F
- c. Pope Benedict has written over 40 books and can speak ten languages. T / F
- d. The new Pope gave everyone his home address in Rome. T / F
- e. The new Pope said he couldn't play any musical instruments. T / F
- f. The new Pope said the Lord would help us. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| (a) chosen | opposed to |
| (b) traditional | speech |
| (c) against | usual |
| (d) concerns | everlasting |
| (e) address | elected |
| (f) elected | issues |
| (g) instruments | tools |
| (h) constant | chosen |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (a) Joseph Ratzinger has been | leader |
| (b) leader of the world's | help |
| (c) He is strongly against | forward |
| (d) a younger | chosen as the 265th Pope |
| (e) Immediately after | address to the world |
| (f) gave his first | 1.1 billion Roman Catholics. |
| (g) constant | his election |
| (h) we will go | modern-day concerns |

SYNONYM FILL: There are six gaps in the article. There are six groups of synonyms below the article. Place the number of the group in the correct gap (It is not important to guess a correct word - any synonym from each group could be put into the relevant gap).

New Pope chosen

BNE: The Roman Catholic Church has a new Pope. Germany's Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger has been _____ as the 265th Pope and leader of the world's 1.1 billion Roman Catholics. The 78-year-old German has taken the name Benedict XVI. A lot of people think he will be very traditional and will not make many changes. He is strongly against modern-day _____ such as abortion, homosexuality, gay marriage and contraception. Many Catholics wanted a younger _____ who better understands today's world. Pope Benedict has written over 40 books and can speak ten languages.

Immediately after his election, Pope Benedict gave his first _____ : "Dear brothers and sisters, After the Great Pope John Paul II, the cardinals have elected me, a simple, _____ worker in the Lord's vineyard. I am comforted by the fact that the Lord knows how to work and act even with insufficient instruments. And above all, I entrust myself to your prayers. With the joy of the risen Lord and confidence in his _____ help, we will go forward. The Lord will help us, and Mary, his most holy mother, will be alongside us. Thank you."

1

humble
lowly
modest
meek

2

concerns
issues
topics
trials

3

chosen
elected
appointed
named

4

constant
everlasting
eternal
around-the-clock

5

leader
guider
head
number one

6

address
speech
sermon
talk

HOMEWORK:

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find information on Pope Benedict XVI. Share your findings with your class next lesson.

3. NO RELIGION? Write a short article about religion. Does religion cause more harm than good or is it something that creates love and kindness in the world?

4. LETTER: Write a letter to Pope Benedict XVI. Tell him what you want to see him do during his time as Pope. Read your letter in your next class and see how many people want the same things.

Find this and similar lessons at <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com>

DISCUSSION:

- a. When did you first hear this news?
- b. Was there anything in the story that surprised you?
- c. Was there anything in the story that disappointed you?
- d. What's your opinion on the new Pope?
- e. Do you think he's too old?
- f. People say he's very traditional. Is this good?
- g. Do you think a non-European Pope would have been better?
- h. Should a church teach straight from the Bible / Koran / Torah... in today's modern world?
- i. Are you religious?
- j. Do you believe in God?
- k. Do you believe in the power of prayer?
- l. Why do people choose just one religion?
- m. Is one religion better than any other?
- n. What are the good and bad points of the Roman Catholic Church?
- o. Is religion a good or bad thing?
- p. What are the biggest challenges for Pope Benedict XVI?
- q. What can the new Pope do to keep young people going to church?
- r. What changes would you like to see this Pope make?
- s. Which languages would you like to be able to speak (and why)?
- t. Did you like this discussion?
- u. Teacher / Student additional questions.

TEXT

New Pope chosen

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Immediately after his election, Pope Benedict gave his first address to the world: "Dear brothers and sisters, After the Great Pope John Paul II, the cardinals have elected me, a simple, humble worker in the Lord's vineyard. I am comforted by the fact that the Lord knows how to work and act even with insufficient instruments. And above all, I entrust myself to your prayers. With the joy of the risen Lord and confidence in his constant help, we will go forward. The Lord will help us, and Mary, his most holy mother, will be alongside us. Thank you."

NEW POLICIES:

In pairs / groups. You work for the Catholic Church in the Vatican. You are very worried about fewer and fewer people going to church around the world. You need come up with some good ideas / policies for the new Pope to make the Church more popular with young people. (1) Choose three of the topics below and agree on new ideas / policies. (2) Present your ideas to the rest of the class. Be prepared to answer questions from those listening. The students watching the presentation should take notes on the ideas and appraise them. (3) Change partners and talk about the good and bad points of the ideas you heard. (4) Vote for the best / worst ideas.

Possible idea themes: contraception / the death penalty / overpopulation / gay marriage / abortion / the war on terror / women clergy / shortage of clergy / sex scandals / AIDs...

* In multi-faith classes brainstorm ideas to add to this list that are relevant to Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism etc

NEW POLICIES ASSESSMENT SHEET			
Team #	Policy	My opinion	My questions