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Rio carnival says "no" to violence

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19th February, 2007

THE ARTICLE

Rio carnival says "no" to violence

Rio de Janeiro's world famous carnival opened on Sunday with a riot of colour and music. Hundreds of thousands of partygoers arrived in the city to dance through the streets and watch parades, samba dancers, and hundreds of other colourful attractions. In keeping with tradition, Rio's mayor handed the key to the city to the king of the carnival – named *Rei Momo*. This year, carnival king Alex de Silva took the key for the ninth year running in a noisy ceremony in front of Rio's city hall. Mayor Cesar Maia declared: "From this moment, happiness will reign across the city." Mr de Silva echoed these words. He said the carnival "requires some serious work, but...we have the right to play". He hoped people would be "filled with the spirit of carnival" and could "enjoy the mixing between social classes and respect each other".

In spite of the positive words expressed by the mayor and carnival king, violence is overshadowing this year's event. A wave of drug-related violence has hit the headlines in recent days. One battle between drug gangs resulted in a six-year-old boy being dragged four kilometres through the streets by a gang member's car. The child's death shocked even city residents, who have become almost immune to hearing about child murders. In another incident, the vice president of a top samba school and his wife were shot dead last week. Mayor Maia said that: "Rio has to overcome these regrettable events and promote its true nature." He stressed that the majority of Brazilians are "calm, peaceful, and happy people". He told reporters that the carnival was a good time to say "no" to violence.

WARM-UPS

1. BRAZIL: What information would you like to know about Brazil? Walk around the class and find out as much as you can. When you have finished, sit with your partner(s) and share your information.

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

Rio de Janeiro / carnival / riots / partygoers / city halls / echoes / spirits / positive words / violence / waves / drug gangs / samba / happy people

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

3. A TALE OF TWO CITIES: With your partner(s), talk about how your city might be a city of two halves. Talk about the differences that exist regarding the points below. Will these differences get bigger or smaller in the future?

- wealth
- class
- housing
- religion
- skin colour
- education
- security
- happiness

4. CARNIVALS: Look at the "carnivals" in the table. With your partner(s), talk about what might happen in each one. Rate them: 10 is "I would love to go to this one", 1 is "I'd rather sit at home and study English grammar".

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| • The Microsoft Carnival | • Carnival of the 21 st Century |
| • The Hollywood Carnival | • Children's Carnival |
| • Carnival of the Sun | • Love Carnival |
| • Carnival of the Ants and Spiders | • One World Carnival |
| • The English Grammar Carnival | • My Carnival |

5. QUICK DEBATE: Students A believe the Rio Carnival should be shut down until the city's crime levels reduce. Students B believe this is a silly idea – Carnival is something that brings joy to Rio. Debate this with your partners. Change partners often.

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

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| a. Rio's famous carnival opened with street riots and violence. | T / F |
| b. The city's mayor gave a key to a man for the ninth year in a row. | T / F |
| c. The mayor predicted it would rain across the city. | T / F |
| d. The carnival king said people from all walks of life party together. | T / F |
| e. Drug related crimes have been on Rio's newspaper front pages. | T / F |
| f. A six-year-old boy's death shocked the city's residents. | T / F |
| g. A famous samba dancer and his wife shot a gang leader. | T / F |
| h. Rio's mayor said it was an opportune time to reject violence. | T / F |

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

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| a. world famous | unfortunate |
| b. riot | rule |
| c. partygoers | taking the edge off |
| d. running | spate |
| e. reign | revelers |
| f. overshadowing | tranquil |
| g. wave | mass |
| h. immune | in a row |
| i. regrettable | unaffected by |
| j. calm | renowned |

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a. a riot of | these words |
| b. In keeping | across the city |
| c. Alex de Silva took the key for the ninth | these regrettable events |
| d. happiness will reign | of drug-related violence |
| e. Mr de Silva echoed | colour and music |
| f. violence is | to hearing about child murders |
| g. A wave | with tradition |
| h. become almost immune | Brazilians are calm |
| i. Rio has to overcome | overshadowing this year's event |
| j. the majority of | year running |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Rio carnival says "no" to violence

Rio de Janeiro's world famous carnival opened on Sunday with a _____ of colour and music. Hundreds of thousands of partygoers arrived in the city to dance through the streets and watch parades, samba dancers, and hundreds of other colourful _____. In keeping with _____, Rio's mayor handed the key to the city to the king of the carnival – named *Rei Momo*. This year, carnival king Alex de Silva took the key for the ninth year _____ in a noisy ceremony in front of Rio's city hall. Mayor Cesar Maia declared: "From this moment, happiness will _____ across the city." Mr de Silva echoed these words. He said the carnival "_____ some serious work, but...we have the right to play". He hoped people would be "filled with the _____ of carnival" and could "enjoy the mixing between social classes and _____ each other".

In _____ of the positive words expressed by the mayor and carnival king, violence is overshadowing this year's event. A _____ of drug-related violence has hit the headlines in recent days. One battle between drug gangs _____ in a six-year-old boy being dragged four kilometres through the streets by a gang member's car. The child's death shocked even city residents, who have become almost _____ to hearing about child murders. In another _____, the vice president of a top samba school and his wife were shot dead last week. Mayor Maia said that: "Rio has to _____ these regrettable events and _____ its true nature." He _____ that the majority of Brazilians are "calm, peaceful, and happy people". He told reporters that the carnival was a good time to say "no" to violence.

running
attractions
respect
requires
riot
reign
tradition
spirit

resulted
promote
wave
overcome
incident
spite
stressed
immune

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Rio carnival says "no" to violence

Rio de Janeiro's world famous carnival opened on Sunday _____ and music. Hundreds of thousands of _____ in the city to dance through the streets and watch parades, samba dancers, and hundreds of other colourful attractions. _____ tradition, Rio's mayor handed the key to the city to the king of the carnival – named *Rei Momo*. This year, carnival king Alex de Silva took the key _____ in a noisy ceremony in front of Rio's city hall. Mayor Cesar Maia declared: "From this moment, _____ across the city." Mr de Silva echoed these words. He said the carnival "requires some serious work, but...we have the right to play". He hoped people would be "_____ of carnival" and could "enjoy the mixing between social classes and respect each other".

_____ positive words expressed by the mayor and carnival king, violence is overshadowing this year's event. _____ violence has hit the headlines in recent days. One battle between drug gangs _____ six-year-old boy being dragged four kilometres through the streets by a gang member's car. The child's death shocked even city residents, who have _____ hearing about child murders. In another incident, the vice president of a top samba school and his wife were shot dead last week. Mayor Maia said that: "Rio has to _____ events and promote its true nature." He stressed that the majority of Brazilians are "calm, peaceful, and happy people". He told reporters that the carnival was a good time to say "no" to violence.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'say' and 'no'.

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. STUDENT "CARNIVAL" SURVEY: In pairs / groups, write down questions about carnivals and festivals.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

6. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• riot• hundreds• keeping• running• reign• spirit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• spite• hit• immune• overcome• majority• no
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DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What adjectives would you use to describe this story and why?
- c) What do you know about Rio de Janeiro and its carnival?
- d) Are you a carnival person?
- e) Have you ever been anywhere where there was a riot of colour and music?
- f) What would your city be like if happiness reigned across it?
- g) Does your city have any festivals or carnivals?
- h) Is there social harmony in your town?
- i) Do you think everyone has the right to play?
- j) Would you like to attend Rio's carnival?



STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) What do you think about what you read?
- c) Does violence overshadow life in your town?
- d) Are there waves of drug-related crimes in your town or country?
- e) How would residents of your town react to the killing by a drug gang of a six-year-old boy?
- f) What do you think is the best way for Rio to rid itself of drugs, guns and crime?
- g) What is your image of Brazilian people?
- h) In what other ways can a city's residents say "no" to violence?
- i) Do you think people are immune to seeing death and destruction on TV and in the papers?
- j) Did you like this discussion?

AFTER DISCUSSION: Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a) What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- b) Was there a question you didn't like?
- c) Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- d) What did you like talking about?
- e) Which was the most difficult question?

SPEAKING

YOUR CARNIVAL: In pairs / groups. You are a carnival organizer. Decide on one of the carnivals from activity 4, page 3 of this lesson. Fill in the details of the table together.

The carnival: _____

Why you chose it	
When it'll be	
The main themes	
Side shows/events	
Security	
Competitions and prizes	
Slogan and logo	

Change partners and share your ideas. Give each other advice on better ideas for the carnival.

Give a presentation of your ideas to your classmates. Vote on the best one(s).

LANGUAGE

CORRECT WORD: Put the correct words from a–d below in the article.

Rio carnival says "no" to violence

Rio de Janeiro's world famous carnival (1) _____ on Sunday with a riot of colour and music. Hundreds of thousands of partygoers arrived in the city to dance through the streets and watch parades, samba dancers, and hundreds of other colourful attractions. (2) _____ keeping with tradition, Rio's mayor handed the key to the city to the king of the carnival – (3) _____ *Rei Momo*. This year, carnival king Alex de Silva took the key for the ninth year (4) _____ in a noisy ceremony in front of Rio's city hall. Mayor Cesar Maia declared: "From this moment, happiness will (5) _____ across the city." Mr de Silva echoed these words. He said the carnival "requires some serious work, but...we have the right to play". He hoped people would be "filled with the spirit (6) _____ carnival" and could "enjoy the mixing between social classes and respect each other".

(7) _____ spite of the positive words expressed by the mayor and carnival king, violence is overshadowing this year's event. A (8) _____ of drug-related violence has hit the headlines in recent days. One battle between drug gangs (9) _____ in a six-year-old boy being dragged four kilometres through the streets by a gang member's car. The child's death shocked even city residents, who have become almost (10) _____ to hearing about child murders. In another incident, the vice president of a top samba school and his wife were shot (11) _____ last week. Mayor Maia said that: "Rio has to overcome these regrettable events and promote its true nature." He (12) _____ that the majority of Brazilians are "calm, peaceful, and happy people". He told reporters that the carnival was a good time to say "no" to violence.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) open | (b) opened | (c) opening | (d) opener |
| 2. | (a) At | (b) In | (c) On | (d) An |
| 3. | (a) nameless | (b) naming | (c) named | (d) name |
| 4. | (a) running | (b) runs | (c) run | (d) runner |
| 5. | (a) reins | (b) rein | (c) rain | (d) reign |
| 6. | (a) with | (b) of | (c) on | (d) at |
| 7. | (a) Out | (b) Of | (c) On | (d) In |
| 8. | (a) wave | (b) ocean | (c) tsunami | (d) crest |
| 9. | (a) result | (b) resulting | (c) resulted | (d) results |
| 10. | (a) immunize | (b) immunization | (c) immune | (d) immunity |
| 11. | (a) dead | (b) death | (c) die | (d) deadly |
| 12. | (a) importance | (b) tension | (c) pressured | (d) stressed |

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 more information about the Rio de Janeiro carnival. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. CARNIVAL POSTER: Make a poster showing some of the world's famous carnivals. Show your poster to your class in the next lesson. Vote on the best one

4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about drug-related crime. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Which article was best and why?

5. LETTER: Write a letter to the mayor of Rio. Tell him what he should do to stop the violence in his city. Ask him three questions. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F b. T c. F d. T e. T f. T g. F h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | | |
|----|---------------|---------------------|
| a. | world famous | renowned |
| b. | riot | mass |
| c. | partygoers | revelers |
| d. | running | in a row |
| e. | reign | rule |
| f. | overshadowing | taking the edge off |
| g. | wave | spate |
| h. | immune | unaffected by |
| i. | regrettable | unfortunate |
| j. | calm | tranquil |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a. | a riot of | colour and music |
| b. | In keeping | with tradition |
| c. | Alex de Silva took the key for the ninth | year running |
| d. | happiness will reign | across the city |
| e. | Mr de Silva echoed | these words |
| f. | violence is | overshadowing this year's event |
| g. | A wave | of drug-related violence |
| h. | become almost immune | to hearing about child murders |
| i. | Rio has to overcome | these regrettable events |
| j. | the majority of | Brazilians are calm |

GAP FILL:

Rio carnival says "no" to violence

Rio de Janeiro's world famous carnival opened on Sunday with a **riot** of colour and music. Hundreds of thousands of partygoers arrived in the city to dance through the streets and watch parades, samba dancers, and hundreds of other colourful **attractions**. In keeping with **tradition**, Rio's mayor handed the key to the city to the king of the carnival – named *Rei Momo*. This year, carnival king Alex de Silva took the key for the ninth year **running** in a noisy ceremony in front of Rio's city hall. Mayor Cesar Maia declared: "From this moment, happiness will **reign** across the city." Mr de Silva echoed these words. He said the carnival "**requires** some serious work, but...we have the right to play". He hoped people would be "filled with the **spirit** of carnival" and could "enjoy the mixing between social classes and **respect** each other".

In **spite** of the positive words expressed by the mayor and carnival king, violence is overshadowing this year's event. A **wave** of drug-related violence has hit the headlines in recent days. One battle between drug gangs **resulted** in a six-year-old boy being dragged four kilometres through the streets by a gang member's car. The child's death shocked even city residents, who have become almost **immune** to hearing about child murders. In another **incident**, the vice president of a top samba school and his wife were shot dead last week. Mayor Maia said that: "Rio has to **overcome** these regrettable events and **promote** its true nature." He **stressed** that the majority of Brazilians are "calm, peaceful, and happy people". He told reporters that the carnival was a good time to say "no" to violence.

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - b 2 - b 3 - c 4 - a 5 - d 6 - b 7 - d 8 - a 9 - c 10 - c 11 - a 12 - d