

www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-use ESL / EFL Lessons

The Breaking News English.com Resource Book

"1,000 Ideas & Activities For Language Teachers"

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html>

Bhutan practices for first ever election

URL: <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0704/070423-bhutan.html>

Contents

The Article	2
Warm-ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading / Listening	7
Discussion	8
Speaking	9
Language Work	10
Homework	11
Answers	12

23rd April, 2007

THE ARTICLE

Bhutan practices for first ever election

Citizens of the remote Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan cast their ballots for the first time in their country's history on Saturday. Bhutanese residents voted in "dummy" elections, designed as a warm-up for real elections in 2008. Bhutan's government wanted a test run to teach its people about the basics of democracy. Election authorities are happy with the voter turnout and said everything went smoothly. "The elections will give us a chance to evaluate our readiness for holding the big elections," an official said. People were given mock manifestos to look at and had to vote for one of four fake political parties – the Blue, Red, Green, or Yellow Thunder Dragon Parties. A second round of polling will take place on May 28th to decide between the first and second-place winners of Saturday's contest.

An estimated 400,000 people are eligible to vote in the tiny rooftop nation, sandwiched between India and China. In the real elections, people will vote for a new parliament that may put an end to the rule of the monarchy and end a century of royal rule. However, it is unclear from Saturday's dress rehearsal how the real thing will go. Although people considered issues such as the environment, industrial development and traditional values, the deciding factor came down to the voters' favourite colour. The overwhelming winner, with around 44 percent of the vote, was the Yellow Thunder Dragon Party, which called for the preservation of Bhutan's traditions, cultures and values. This is consistent with the nation's view that its GDH (Gross Domestic Happiness) is more important than its GDP (Gross Domestic Product).

WARM-UPS

1. BHUTAN: Walk around the class and find out what you know about Bhutan, or what your image of the country is. After you finish, sit with different students and share the stories you heard.

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

elections / Himalayas / history / warm-ups / democracy / manifestos / thunder / political parties / rooftops / sandwiches / monarchies / values / happiness

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

3. POLITICAL PARTIES: With your partner(s), decide what these political parties stand for. How will they change the world? Change parties and share your thoughts and findings.

- the Yellow Thunder Dragon Party
- the One World Party
- the Back-To-Basics Party
- the Nose and Toe Party
- the Music Party

4. ELECTION ISSUES: What are the biggest issues in elections in your country? Put these in order of the biggest concerns. Change partners and talk about your choices:

- the economy
- crime
- terrorism
- education
- the environment
- health
- the aged
- jobs

5. QUICK DEBATE: Have this quick debate with your partner(s). Students A think elections are a waste of time and money; students B think elections are a necessary part of a free society. Change partners and topics every two minutes.

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

7. BHUTAN ELECTION: You are voting in the very first Bhutanese election. Talk to the other “voters” in your class about the important issues in the Himalayas.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

- a. Bhutan's first ever election is just a test, not a real election. T / F
- b. Bhutan's government wants people to understand basic democracy. T / F
- c. The elections ended up being a total disaster. T / F
- d. The four political parties on voting papers were imaginary parties. T / F
- e. Kings and queens have ruled Bhutan for a hundred years. T / F
- f. A key factor in how people voted was their favourite colour. T / F
- g. The Yellow Thunder Dragon Party stood for modernization. T / F
- h. Most Bhutanese think happiness is more important than economics. T / F

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| a. citizens | consider |
| b. cast their ballots | in line with |
| c. dummy | voting |
| d. evaluate | trial |
| e. polling | residents |
| f. sandwiched | continuation |
| g. put an end to | voted |
| h. dress rehearsal | finish |
| i. preservation | pretend |
| j. consistent | squeezed |

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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a. the remote | with the voter turnout |
| b. a warm-up for | the rule of the monarchy |
| c. authorities are happy | first and second-place winners |
| d. People were given mock | between India and China |
| e. decide between the | real elections |
| f. An estimated 400,000 people are | to the voters' favourite colour |
| g. sandwiched | manifestos to look at |
| h. put an end to | eligible to vote |
| i. the deciding factor came down | of Bhutan's traditions |
| j. the preservation | Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

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

Bhutan practices for first ever election

Citizens of the _____ Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan cast their ballots for the first time in their country's history on Saturday. Bhutanese residents voted in "_____" elections, designed as a warm-up for real elections in 2008. Bhutan's government wanted a _____ run to teach its people about the basics of democracy. Election authorities are happy with the voter turnout and said everything went _____. "The elections will give us a chance to _____ our readiness for _____ the big elections," an official said. People were given mock manifestos to look at and had to vote for one of four fake political parties – the Blue, Red, Green, or Yellow Thunder Dragon Parties. A second round of _____ will take place on May 28th to decide between the first and second-place winners of Saturday's _____.

An estimated 400,000 people are _____ to vote in the tiny _____ nation, sandwiched between India and China. In the real elections, people will vote for a new parliament that may put an end to the _____ of the monarchy and end a century of royal rule. However, it is unclear from Saturday's dress rehearsal how the real thing will _____. Although people considered issues such as the environment, industrial development and traditional values, the _____ factor came down to the voters' favourite colour. The _____ winner, with around 44 percent of the vote, was the Yellow Thunder Dragon Party, which called for the preservation of Bhutan's traditions, cultures and values. This is consistent with the nation's _____ that its GDH (Gross Domestic _____) is more important than its GDP (Gross Domestic Product).

holding
smoothly
dummy
contest
evaluate
remote
polling
test

rule
overwhelming
happiness
rooftop
deciding
eligible
view
go

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Bhutan practices for first ever election

Citizens of the remote Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan _____ the first time in their country's history on Saturday. Bhutanese residents voted in "dummy" elections, designed _____ real elections in 2008. Bhutan's government wanted a test run to teach its people _____ democracy. Election authorities are happy with the voter turnout and said everything went smoothly. "The elections will give us _____ our readiness for holding the big elections," an official said. People were given mock manifestos to look at and had to _____ political parties – the Blue, Red, Green, or Yellow Thunder Dragon Parties. A second round of polling will take place on May 28th _____ first and second-place winners of Saturday's contest.

An estimated 400,000 people _____ the tiny rooftop nation, sandwiched between India and China. In the real elections, people will vote for a new parliament that may _____ rule of the monarchy and end a century of royal rule. However, it is unclear from Saturday's dress rehearsal how _____. Although people considered issues such as the environment, industrial development and traditional values, the deciding factor _____ voters' favourite colour. The overwhelming winner, with around 44 percent of the vote, was the Yellow Thunder Dragon Party, _____ preservation of Bhutan's traditions, cultures and values. This is consistent _____ that its GDH (Gross Domestic Happiness) is more important than its GDP (Gross Domestic Product).

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'test' and 'run'.

- 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 "DEMOCRACY" SURVEY: In pairs / groups, write down questions about democracy and elections.

- 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">• remote• dummy• basics• evaluate• mock• decide	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• tiny• end• dress• factor• overwhelming• important
--	--

DISCUSSION

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

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What do you know about the tiny rooftop nation of Bhutan?
- c) What do you think of Bhutan's mock elections?
- d) What issues do you think are important in a tiny Himalayan kingdom?
- e) Is it important to vote?
- f) What do you think democracy real is?
- g) Do you think citizens need lessons on democracy and elections?
- h) Which elections around the world do you take an interest in?
- i) Why do you think Bhutan has decided to hold elections for the first time?
- j) Do you like reading about elections?



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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) What are elections like in your country?
- c) Have you ever voted?
- d) What are the key issues you consider when voting?
- e) What do you think it's like living on the rooftop of the world?
- f) Do you think Bhutan's people will vote to end its monarchy?
- g) What do you think of voting for a party that has your favourite colour?
- h) Do you think Bhutan should modernize or preserve its traditions?
- i) Do you think Gross Domestic Happiness is important?
- 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

ELECTION ISSUES:

With your partner(s), create your own manifesto for the next school / local / national / international elections. Put your key issues in the left hand column. Decide on things you want to increase or decrease in the middle and right hand columns.

Decide a name for your party _____

The issues	Increase	Decrease
1. _____		
2. _____		
3. _____		
4. _____		
5. _____		

After you finish, change partners and tell each other about your manifestos. Who has the best ones?

LANGUAGE

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

Bhutan practices for first ever election

Citizens of the (1) _____ Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan cast their ballots for the first time in their country's history on Saturday. Bhutanese residents voted in "(2) _____" elections, designed as a (3) _____ -up for real elections in 2008. Bhutan's government wanted a test run to teach its people about the basics of democracy. Election authorities are happy with the voter turnout and said everything went (4) _____. "The elections will give us a chance to evaluate our readiness for holding the big elections," an official said. People were given (5) _____ manifestos to look at and had to vote for one of four fake political parties – the Blue, Red, Green, or Yellow Thunder Dragon Parties. A second round of polling will (6) _____ place on May 28th to decide between the first and second-place winners of Saturday's contest.

An estimated 400,000 people are (7) _____ to vote in the tiny rooftop nation, sandwiched between India and China. In the real elections, people will vote for a new parliament that may (8) _____ an end to the rule of the monarchy and end a century of royal rule. However, it is unclear from Saturday's (9) _____ rehearsal how the real thing will go. Although people considered issues such as the environment, industrial development and traditional values, the deciding factor came (10) _____ to the voters' favourite colour. The overwhelming winner, with around 44 percent of the vote, was the Yellow Thunder Dragon Party, (11) _____ called for the preservation of Bhutan's traditions, cultures and values. This is consistent with the nation's (12) _____ that its GDH (Gross Domestic Happiness) is more important than its GDP (Gross Domestic Product).

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) revote | (b) remotely | (c) remote | (d) remoteness |
| 2. | (a) fools | (b) dumb | (c) dummies | (d) dummy |
| 3. | (a) warm | (b) cool | (c) heat | (d) fire |
| 4. | (a) calm | (b) smoothly | (c) roughly | (d) uneven |
| 5. | (a) lock | (b) rock | (c) mock | (d) sock |
| 6. | (a) take | (b) give | (c) put | (d) in |
| 7. | (a) editable | (b) enviable | (c) edible | (d) eligible |
| 8. | (a) put | (b) hit | (c) stop | (d) start |
| 9. | (a) vest | (b) dress | (c) pants | (d) suit |
| 10. | (a) on | (b) in | (c) up | (d) down |
| 11. | (a) when | (b) why | (c) which | (d) what |
| 12. | (a) look | (b) view | (c) sight | (d) eyesight |

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 tiny rooftop kingdom of Bhutan. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. ELECTIONS POSTER: Make a poster about different countries around the world that have had elections recently (France, Nigeria, etc.) How are they different? Show your poster to your class in the next lesson. Vote on the best one(s).

4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about the introduction of democracy in Bhutan. In particular, write about how the tiny kingdom's society might change, and whether this is good or bad? Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Which article was best and why?

5. HAPPY MANIFESTO: Create your own manifesto to increase the Gross Domestic Happiness of your country. Show your manifesto to your classmates in the next lesson. Which one was best and why?

6. LETTER: Write a letter to the king of Bhutan. Ask him three questions about why he is introducing democratic elections in his country. Give him three pieces of advice about how to keep his country high in Gross Domestic Happiness. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

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

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| a. citizens | residents |
| b. cast their ballots | voted |
| c. dummy | pretend |
| d. evaluate | consider |
| e. polling | voting |
| f. sandwiched | squeezed |
| g. put an end to | finish |
| h. dress rehearsal | trial |
| i. preservation | continuation |
| j. consistent | in line with |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a. the remote | Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan |
| b. a warm-up for | real elections |
| c. authorities are happy | with the voter turnout |
| d. People were given mock | manifestos to look at |
| e. decide between the | first and second-place winners |
| f. An estimated 400,000 people are | eligible to vote |
| g. sandwiched | between India and China |
| h. put an end to | the rule of the monarchy |
| i. the deciding factor came down | to the voters' favourite colour |
| j. the preservation | of Bhutan's traditions |

GAP FILL:

Bhutan practices for first ever election

Citizens of the **remote** Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan cast their ballots for the first time in their country's history on Saturday. Bhutanese residents voted in "**dummy**" elections, designed as a warm-up for real elections in 2008. Bhutan's government wanted a **test** run to teach its people about the basics of democracy. Election authorities are happy with the voter turnout and said everything went **smoothly**. "The elections will give us a chance to **evaluate** our readiness for **holding** the big elections," an official said. People were given mock manifestos to look at and had to vote for one of four fake political parties – the Blue, Red, Green, or Yellow Thunder Dragon Parties. A second round of **polling** will take place on May 28th to decide between the first and second-place winners of Saturday's **contest**.

An estimated 400,000 people are **eligible** to vote in the tiny **rooftop** nation, sandwiched between India and China. In the real elections, people will vote for a new parliament that may put an end to the **rule** of the monarchy and end a century of royal rule. However, it is unclear from Saturday's dress rehearsal how the real thing will **go**. Although people considered issues such as the environment, industrial development and traditional values, the **deciding** factor came down to the voters' favourite colour. The **overwhelming** winner, with around 44 percent of the vote, was the Yellow Thunder Dragon Party, which called for the preservation of Bhutan's traditions, cultures and values. This is consistent with the nation's **view** that its GDH (Gross Domestic **Happiness**) is more important than its GDP (Gross Domestic Product).

LANGUAGE WORK

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