

# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY

[http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/09/international\\_day\\_of\\_democracy.html](http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/09/international_day_of_democracy.html)

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

## THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

The International Day of Democracy started in 2007. The United Nations General Assembly decided to have a special day to raise awareness of living in a democracy. They chose September 15th as that day and invited every country and member organization to focus on the benefits of democracy. The U.N. declared there was no single model of democracy. A resolution said all democracies share common features "and that democracy does not belong to any country or region". The U.N. said: "Democracy is a universal value based on the freely-expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems, and their full participation in all aspects of life."

The International Day of Democracy website claims democracies can have many advantages for their citizens. The main one is to ensure people's basic freedoms. "In a democracy, people are able to think, say and do what they wish within the law and with respect for others, to practice their beliefs and to live the kinds of life they choose." Another advantage is that a democracy meets popular needs. The more influence ordinary people have over their government, the more likely government will meet their basic needs. The website says democracies treat people equally and are free from discrimination. It does say many of the world's democracies fall short of achieving this. There is perhaps no country that has true equality.

## PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

### Paragraph 1

- |                              |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. raise                     | a. value          |
| 2. living                    | b. features       |
| 3. common                    | c. of people      |
| 4. democracy is a universal  | d. awareness      |
| 5. the freely-expressed will | e. of life        |
| 6. all aspects               | f. in a democracy |

### Paragraph 2

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. basic             | a. the law        |
| 2. within            | b. achieving this |
| 3. a democracy meets | c. equally        |
| 4. ordinary          | d. freedoms       |
| 5. treat people      | e. popular needs  |
| 6. fall short of     | f. people         |

## LISTENING GAP FILL

The International Day of Democracy \_\_\_\_\_. The United Nations General Assembly decided to have a special day \_\_\_\_\_ of living in a democracy. They chose September 15th as that day and invited every country and member organization \_\_\_\_\_ benefits of democracy. The U.N. declared there was no single model of democracy. A resolution said all democracies \_\_\_\_\_ "and that democracy does not belong to any country or region". The U.N. said: "Democracy is a universal \_\_\_\_\_ freely-expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems, and their full participation \_\_\_\_\_."

The International Day of Democracy website claims democracies \_\_\_\_\_ advantages for their citizens. The main one is to ensure people's basic freedoms. "In a democracy, people are able to think, say and do what they wish \_\_\_\_\_ with respect for others, to practice their beliefs and to \_\_\_\_\_ they choose." Another advantage is that a democracy meets popular needs. The more influence \_\_\_\_\_ over their government, the more likely government will meet their basic needs. The website says democracies \_\_\_\_\_ and are free from discrimination. It does say many of the world's democracies fall \_\_\_\_\_ this. There is perhaps no country that has true equality.

**WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL**

**Put the words into the gaps in the text.**

The International Day of Democracy started in 2007. The United Nations General Assembly decided to have a special day to \_\_\_\_\_ awareness of living in a democracy. They \_\_\_\_\_ September 15th as that day and invited every country and member organization to \_\_\_\_\_ on the benefits of democracy. The U.N. declared there was no single model of democracy. A resolution said all democracies share \_\_\_\_\_ features "and that democracy does not \_\_\_\_\_ to any country or region". The U.N. said: "Democracy is a universal value based on the \_\_\_\_\_ - expressed will of people to determine their \_\_\_\_\_ political, economic, social and cultural systems, and their full participation in all \_\_\_\_\_ of life."

*belong*  
*raise*  
*focus*  
*aspects*  
*common*  
*own*  
*chose*  
*freely*

The International Day of Democracy website \_\_\_\_\_ democracies can have many advantages for their citizens. The \_\_\_\_\_ one is to ensure people's \_\_\_\_\_ freedoms. "In a democracy, people are able to think, say and do what they wish \_\_\_\_\_ the law and with respect for others, to practice their beliefs and to live the kinds of life they \_\_\_\_\_." Another advantage is that a democracy meets popular needs. The more influence ordinary people have over their government, the more likely government will \_\_\_\_\_ their basic needs. The website says democracies treat people \_\_\_\_\_ and are free from discrimination. It does say many of the world's democracies fall \_\_\_\_\_ of achieving this. There is perhaps no country that has true equality.

*within*  
*claims*  
*choose*  
*short*  
*basic*  
*equally*  
*main*  
*meet*

**CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD**

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

The International Day of Democracy *starts / started* in 2007. The United Nations General Assembly decided to have a special day to *raise / rise* awareness of living in a democracy. They *chose / chosen* September 15th as that day and invited every country and member organization to focus on the *beneficial / benefits* of democracy. The U.N. declared there was no single model of democracy. A resolution said all democracies share common *features / feature* "and that democracy does not belong to *all / any* country or region". The U.N. said: "Democracy is a universal value based on the *freedom- / freely-*expressed *will / shall* of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems, and their *full / fully* participation in all aspects of life."

The International Day of Democracy website claims democracies can have many *advantage / advantages* for their citizens. The main one is to ensure *people's / peoples* basic freedoms. "In a democracy, people are able to think, say and do what they wish *without / within* the law and with respect for others, to practice their beliefs and to live the kinds of life they *chosen / choose*." Another advantage is that a democracy *met / meets* popular needs. The more influence ordinary people have over their government, the more *likeable / likely* government will meet their basic needs. The website says democracies treat people equally and are free *from / by* discrimination. It does say many of the world's democracies fall short of achieving *this / these*. There is perhaps no country that has true equality.

**MULTIPLE CHOICE**

The International Day of Democracy (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in 2007. The United Nations General Assembly decided to have a special day to (2) \_\_\_\_\_ awareness of living in a democracy. They chose September 15th as that day and invited every country and (3) \_\_\_\_\_ organization to focus on the benefits of democracy. The U.N. declared there was no single model (4) \_\_\_\_\_ democracy. A resolution said all democracies share common features "and that democracy does not belong to any country or region". The U.N. said: "Democracy is a universal value based on the freely-expressed (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems, and their full participation in all aspects of (6) \_\_\_\_\_."

The International Day of Democracy website claims democracies can have many advantages (7) \_\_\_\_\_ their citizens. The main one is to ensure (8) \_\_\_\_\_ basic freedoms. "In a democracy, people are able to think, say and do what they wish (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the law and with respect for others, to practice their beliefs and to live the kinds of life they choose." Another advantage is that a democracy meets popular (10) \_\_\_\_\_. The more influence ordinary people have over their government, the more (11) \_\_\_\_\_ government will meet their basic needs. The website says democracies treat people equally and are free from discrimination. It does say many of the world's democracies (12) \_\_\_\_\_ short of achieving this. There is perhaps no country that has true equality.

**Put the correct words from this table into the article.**

- |     |               |              |              |                |
|-----|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) start     | (b) started  | (c) starting | (d) starts     |
| 2.  | (a) raise     | (b) rise     | (c) up       | (d) higher     |
| 3.  | (a) members   | (b) member's | (c) member   | (d) membership |
| 4.  | (a) at        | (b) on       | (c) to       | (d) of         |
| 5.  | (a) shall     | (b) might    | (c) could    | (d) will       |
| 6.  | (a) lively    | (b) live     | (c) life     | (d) alive      |
| 7.  | (a) by        | (b) at       | (c) for      | (d) in         |
| 8.  | (a) people's  | (b) peoples  | (c) persons  | (d) people     |
| 9.  | (a) without   | (b) within   | (c) withhold | (d) wither     |
| 10. | (a) necessary | (b) needy    | (c) needed   | (d) needs      |
| 11. | (a) liking    | (b) likely   | (c) likeable | (d) liked      |
| 12. | (a) fall      | (b) down     | (c) decrease | (d) stumble    |

## SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

### Paragraph 1

1. aersi awareness
2. tvidine every country
3. besenfti of democracy
4. share mcnoom features
5. any country or igonre
6. in all estscpa of life

### Paragraph 2

7. many nasevtgdaa
8. ensure people's aisbc freedoms
9. nithiw the law
10. onrdiyra people
11. the more yliekl
12. true teyuqlia

## PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and
- ( ) say and do what they wish within the law and with respect for others, to practice their beliefs and to live the kinds of
- ( ) The International Day of Democracy website claims democracies can have many advantages
- ( ) life they choose." Another advantage is that a democracy meets popular needs. The more influence ordinary
- ( ) cultural systems, and their full participation in all aspects of life."
- ( ) for their citizens. The main one is to ensure people's basic freedoms. "In a democracy, people are able to think,
- ( ) to any country or region". The U.N. said: "Democracy is a universal value based on the freely-
- ( ) people have over their government, the more likely government will meet
- ( ) their basic needs. The website says democracies treat people equally and are free from discrimination. It does say many
- ( ) day to raise awareness of living in a democracy. They chose September 15th as that day and invited every
- ( ) model of democracy. A resolution said all democracies share common features "and that democracy does not belong
- ( **1** ) The International Day of Democracy started in 2007. The United Nations General Assembly decided to have a special
- ( ) country and member organization to focus on the benefits of democracy. The U.N. declared there was no single
- ( ) of the world's democracies fall short of achieving this. There is perhaps no country that has true equality.

## SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. raise to day special a Have awareness.

---

2. and organization Invited country member every.

---

3. no was There democracy of model single.

---

4. not any region does to or Democracy belong country.

---

5. life of aspects all in participation Full.

---

6. many have can Democracies advantages.

---

7. law the within wish they what Do.

---

8. ordinary have The influence people more.

---

9. meet basic will their needs Government.

---

10. Democracies short achieving fall of this.

---

**DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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**DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# THE DEMOCRACY SURVEY

Write five questions about International Day of Democracy in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

|      | STUDENT 1<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Q.1. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.2. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.3. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.4. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.5. |                    |                    |                    |

**Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.**



## 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 International Day of Democracy. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about International Day of Democracy. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. POSTER:** Make your own poster about International Day of Democracy. Write about will happen on this day around the world.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.