



IELTS READING/Writing LESSON 6-13/14-2019

Section One Vocabulary

Match the correct word in column A with the definition in column B, then use in a sample sentence.

Column A VOCABULARY	Column B DEFINITION
1. Censorship (Noun)	A. a person who goes to extremes, especially in political matters.
2. Massacre (Noun)	B. the act or practice of censoring.
3. Freedom (Noun)	C. the unnecessary, indiscriminate killing of a large number of human beings or animals, as in barbarous warfare or persecution or for revenge or plunder.
4. Conceal (Verb)	D. of, relating to, or concerned with politics:
5. Distort (Verb)	E. relating to, devoted to, or characterized by friendly companionship or relations:
6. Incident (Noun)	F. absence or omission of mention, comment, or expressed concern:
7. Political (Adjective)	G. an individual occurrence or event.
8. Social (Adjective)	H. to give a false, perverted, or disproportionate meaning to; misrepresent:
9. Extremist (Noun)	I. to keep secret; to prevent or avoid disclosing or divulging.
10. Silence (Noun)	J. exemption from external control, interference, regulation, etc.

Section Two Reading

ARTICLE A

World marks 30 years since Tiananmen massacre as China censors all mention

Source



- As commemorations for the 30th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre takes place worldwide Tuesday, any coverage or discussion of the event will be tightly censored in China. Hundreds of people were killed on June 4, 1989, as People's Liberation Army troops cracked down on pro-democracy protesters in and around Beijing's Tiananmen Square. Events will be held, and speeches made to commemorate the massacre and those who died in cities around the world.

- In central Taipei, capital of self-ruled Taiwan, a massive inflatable version of the iconic "Tank Man," who defied the military as they entered Tiananmen Square, has been on display for several weeks.



On Monday, Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council called on Beijing to "face up to historical mistakes and apologize as soon as possible for the crackdown." "In the past 30 years, Beijing lacked the courage to calmly reflect on the historical significance of the June 4th Incident," the council's statement said. "Rather, they blocked the information and distorted the truth about it and tried to conceal the crime."

- An artwork of Tank Man by Taiwanese artist Shake, inspired by a sketch of dissident Chinese artist Baidiuciao, is on display in front of Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall in Taipei on May 21, 2019. Activists will hold a rally in Washington on Tuesday, with representatives of dozens of human rights groups, including Amnesty International, expected to attend, as well as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement Monday that the massacre still stirred the conscience "of freedom-loving people around the world."

"We salute the heroes of the Chinese people who bravely stood up 30 years ago in Tiananmen Square to demand their rights," he said, urging the Chinese government to make a "full, public accounting" of the incident.



- The biggest event will take place in Hong Kong, the only place on Chinese soil where mass commemorations are held. A candlelit vigil has been held in Victoria Park every year since 1990, with hundreds of thousands attending during key anniversaries.



But across the border, the Chinese authorities will be watching attentively for any attempts to remember the massacre. Tourists were visiting Tiananmen Square as usual on Tuesday, under the close watch of police and subject to frequent security checks.

On Monday, Chinese state-run newspaper Global Times said the massacre had been a "vaccination" against future "political turmoil" in the country, trumpeting China's economic progress in the decades since. It wasn't the first Chinese comment on the anniversary. Speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on Sunday, Defense Minister Wei Fenghe said crushing the protests had been the "correct policy."



5. A day that changed China. For weeks in 1989, hundreds of thousands of students and workers gathered in Tiananmen Square, in the heart of the Chinese capital, to call for greater democracy as well as political and social reforms. At the height of the protests it seemed like they could be successful, forcing a government that was already pursuing economic reform to also accept limited political liberalization. But hardliners won an internal battle within the ruling Communist Party and a crackdown was ordered.

That decision changed China forever, ending hopes of a gradual move towards democracy. Today the Communist Party is stronger than ever, with President Xi Jinping recently throwing out term limits and clearing his way to serve for life.

Beijing has always defended the crackdown. Speaking at an international event Sunday, Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe described the Tiananmen protests as "political turmoil that the central government needed to quell." "The government was decisive in stopping the turbulence, that was the correct policy,"

6. The events of June 4 have been wiped from the history books in China and any discussion of the crackdown is strictly censored and controlled. Tiananmen is a prime target of the Great Firewall, China's sprawling online censorship apparatus.

Tuesday will be a major test of that system; which activists have spent years attempting to get past by using coded phrases such as "May 35" or "that year." But it's a test that it will likely pass with ease, he said.

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7. In the lead-up to June 4, internet users in China complained about difficulties accessing virtual private networks, a common method of bypassing the firewall, while posts on Chinese social media have been restricted or deleted as companies ramp up censorship during this sensitive period.

June 4 has been nicknamed "internet maintenance day" for the number of websites that go offline around the anniversary, their owners deciding that being dark is safer than accidentally publishing something which could provoke the ire of the authorities.

On Tuesday, CNN's website was blocked by the Great Firewall. While the move is not unprecedented, CNN was available to users in China ahead of the June 4 anniversary, as confirmed by GreatFire.org, an independent site which analyzes internet censorship in China. The Cyberspace Administration of China, the government body which oversees internet regulation, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

8. Other international media organizations, including the New York Times and the BBC, have long been inaccessible to users inside China, according to GreatFire.org. Speaking ahead of the anniversary, Mak Hoi-wah, chairman of the June 4 Museum in Hong Kong, said this type of mass censorship was damaging to the country.

"Without understanding the historical facts, we will not be able to move on," Mak said. "The Chinese government is trying to suppress it because they don't want their wrong deeds be remembered by the people."

Click on a highlighted date to view detailed test results.

- Blocked
- Otherwise restricted
- Contradictory
- No censorship detected
- Not enough data

ARTICLE B

Fox News stands by Laura Ingraham after she defends white supremacist, other extremists on her prime-time show

Source



1. Fox News on Friday afternoon stood by Laura Ingraham after she defended a white supremacist and several other fringe people who have been banned or disciplined by large social media companies.

Ingraham's defense of the extremists on her prime-time Fox show "The Ingraham Angle" came during a segment on Thursday about House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's criticism of Facebook for not removing a video doctored to make it appear she was drunk and slurring her words.

Ingraham said calls for Facebook to remove the video were a "pretext to be able to silence voices."

Later during the segment, Ingraham displayed a graphic showing images of people she characterized as "prominent voices censored on social media." "Facebook now, what do they monitor? Quote, hate? That sounds good until you realize hate," Ingraham said. "And these are some of the people they've shunned." "It's people who believe in border enforcement, people who believe in national sovereignty," Ingraham added.



2. The graphic included Paul Nehlen, a white supremacist who unsuccessfully ran for Congress in 2016 and 2018. Nehlen, who refers to himself as "pro-white," has had his racism and anti-Semitism well documented. In April, for instance, he appeared on a podcast and admitted to wearing a shirt featuring Robert Bowers, the man accused of killing 11 people at a Pittsburgh synagogue.

"Because, I want to make a point that it will ultimately take -- it might not take a million Robert Bowers -- but it's going to take a lot of people all pushing in the same direction to do what needs to be done, and that is to rid white lands of Jews," Nehlen said on the podcast. "Because they are going to undermine our ability to thrive as a race. They are going to wipe us off the face of the earth."

Nehlen has also shared fringe conspiracy theories, including the idea that Bill and Hillary Clinton are murderers. Nehlen, who was permanently suspended from Facebook and Twitter, is so toxic that even Gab, a platform used by members of the alt-right, banned him. In 2017, the far-right website Breitbart cut ties with Nehlen after he appeared on a white nationalist podcast.

3. Jonathan Greenblatt, chief executive of the Anti-Defamation League, criticized Fox News and Ingraham for the description of Nehlen. "Paul Nehlen is not being censored because he's a conservative. He was kicked off social media for repeatedly spewing anti-Semitism & racism, and for targeting Jewish journalists," Greenblatt tweeted on Friday. "Do better, @FoxNews."

Following the backlash, Fox News released a statement saying it was "obscene to suggest" Ingraham had defended Nehlen. "Anyone who watches Laura's show knows that she is a fierce protector of freedom of speech and the intent of the segment was to highlight the growing trend of unilateral censorship in America," the Fox News statement added. Ingraham did not respond to requests for comment.

4. Among the other people Ingraham included in her graphic were Laura Loomer, the far-right activist with a history of making Islamophobic comments who has been banned by most social media platforms; Alex Jones, the far-right InfoWars founder who has shared a number of conspiracy theories, including the idea the Sandy Hook massacre was staged, and who has also been banned from most social media platforms; and James Woods, the right-wing actor who was recently locked out of his Twitter account for tweeting the hashtag "#HangThemAll," which violated the company's terms of service.

Ingraham's Thursday segment has resulted in her losing at least one advertiser. Abhi Lokesh, chief executive of photo printing company Fracture, wrote in a blog, "Last night one of our ads aired during an episode of The Ingraham Angle during which Laura Ingraham expressed alarming views that run entirely counter to the values that we hold as a company. We are taking this matter very seriously and as a result we are taking swift action. Effective immediately, we are no longer advertising on The Ingraham Angle."

It's not the first time Ingraham has lost advertisers as a result of a controversial remark. In April 2018, more than a dozen companies said they would no longer advertise on Ingraham's show after she mocked Parkland school shooting survivor David Hogg, who has become a vocal advocate for gun control.