



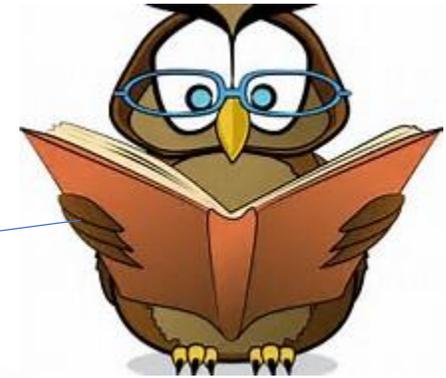
New Internationalist
The world unspun

Letter from Dhaka

New Internationalist Easier English

Ready Intermediate Lesson

this lesson



Grammar



Talk to your partner:



- 1) How often do you take photos?
- 2) When was the last time you took a photo?
- 3) When and why do you take photos?
- 4) What do you use to take your photos?
- 5) How many photos have you got?
- 6) Do you like it when someone takes your photo?
- 7) Where do you get your passport or identity card photos?



Match:

- 1) photo studio
- 2) staff
- 3) curtain
- 4) visa
- 5) background
- 6) embassy
- 7) instructions
- 8) wedding
- 9) remain
- 10) frame
- 11) careful

a) workers

b) 

c) They tell you what to do!

d) A shop where they take your photo.



f) What you see behind you in a photo.

g) For example, there is a French_____ in London where French people can go for help.

h) stay

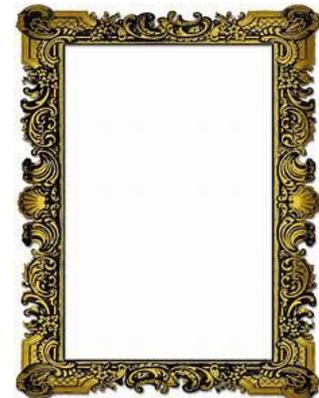
i) note In your passport so you can stay in a country

j) 

k) A _____ typist tries hard not to make mistakes



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What do you think?

- 1) Where is she from?
- 2) What is she wearing?
- 3) What can you see in the background?
- 4) What do you think the article is about?



Which country is she from? What is the capital city?

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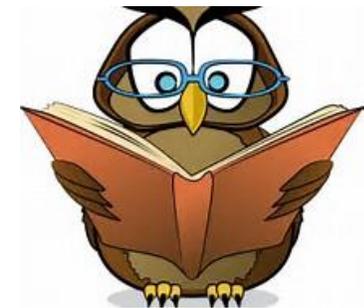


Questions about the article

- 1) Which city is the article about?
- 2) There is a queue in the photo shop. True or false?
- 3) No one speaks. True or false?
- 4) The photo shop is a long way from the embassies. True or false?
- 5) The photo shop takes more wedding photos than passport photos. True or false?
- 6) The people in the shop decide to meet for coffee later. True or false?



Now read and find the answers:



Letter from Dhaka: careful photos

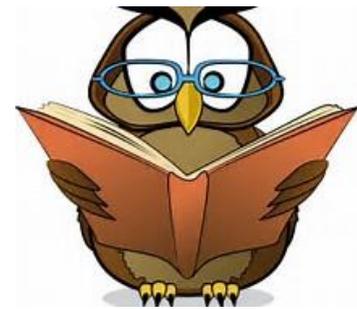
Minutes pass. You go in and hear the instructions from behind the curtain. 'Move right, turn your face to the left, a little to the left, look at me, look a little at a right angle...' The people wait for their photo and begin talking: 'Brother, where are you going?' 'Student?' 'Going on holiday?' 'Do you have family there?'

Inside, there is no air. Quick Photo Studio is less than 10 minutes away from the embassies if you walk quickly. The studio has large wedding pictures taped on its glass front entrance and does mostly passport photos. The customers share their stories about why they need the passport photos, they collect their pictures, and leave. They will never meet again.

What do you think the answers are?

- 1) There are more photo shops in Dhaka now than before. True or False?
- 2) Why?
- 3) The Quick Photo Studio takes mostly wedding photos. True or false?
- 4) Photos are ready in less than 20 minutes. True or false?

Now read and check:



There were a lot of photo studios in the 20th-century but they are disappearing in Dhaka and also in other places. There's no longer the need to travel a long way to have careful photos of yourself with friends, family, or just alone. Now you can take careful or carefree or carefully carefree photos with your phone. But passport and visa photos are a different kind of careful photo with exact specifications from governments. Your identity card makes you a 'real' person for the government. These photos need careful hands – and studios. The studios remaining in Dhaka do most of this business of photos for the government, the passport-sized photos.

Quick Photo Studio's bright lights hit a row of glass shelves with gold frames making a hard light for the eyes. The staff work quickly and take photos which are ready in about 10 to 15 minutes – that is why the studios have their name. Customers can wait and talk but the staff cannot. And of course, the boss could arrive at any time.

Put the words in the correct places in the text:

Paragraph 1

- 1) dreams
- 2) real life
- 3) at home
- 4) 97th
- 5) 6th

Paragraph 2

- 6) not necessary
- 7) white

Now there are Instagram filters, and (a) _____ photo walls and backgrounds for social media. But also many more people from Bangladesh are travelling, with real journeys and not just from their (b) _____, and careful photos are a very necessary, and sometimes boring part of their travels. Most of the places they travel to would prefer Bangladeshis or people from the Global South to stay (c) _____. A passport power list had the Bangladeshi passport (d) _____ for 2019 for visa-free journeys to other countries. The UK was (e) _____. This makes it clear how life is now after colonisation.

Because business comes before beauty, the studio walls for passport photos are now (f) _____. But the dream background pictures may one day return as interesting objects from the past like the popularity of other past objects or cultural moments. It would be nice if passports were the same – only objects of interest and (g) _____ at all.

Questions:



You are waiting in a queue in a photo studio. Write a list of questions to ask other people in the queue.



Talk to a partner:



**What are the good things
about passports and the bad
things?**

Make a list:

Grammar

“If we had no passports, the world would be very different.”

Meaning:

- 1) Is this talking about something real or unreal?
- 2) Is it talking about the past, present, or future?

Form:

- 1) Is it the first, second, or third conditional?
- 2) Which is the correct grammar?
 - a) If + past simple, would + infinitive
 - b) If + present simple, will + infinitive

Finish this sentence in many different ways:

If we had no passports, ...



Homework

Now read the original article:



<https://newint.org/features/2019/04/09/letter-dhaka-careful-image>