

# New Internationalist

The people, the ideas, the action in the fight for global justice

New Internationalist Easier English

Ready Intermediate Lesson

# Xenophobia



This lesson:

Reading

Vocabulary

Speaking

Writing

Look at this  
headline –  
what do you  
think the  
article is  
about?

*'India's  
xenophobic  
shame'*

Match:

**1/ prejudice**

**2/ xenophobic**

**3/ racist**

**4/ caste**

**5/ solidarity**

**6/ to stone**

- a) Hating people because they are from a different race.
- b) Strong support and agreement by a group who agree.
- c) To hurt or kill someone by throwing stones at them.
- d) A negative strong opinion (eg. against a group of people) not based on reason.
- e) Hating or being afraid of people who come from a different country.
- f) A group of people with a different social level in India.

In pairs, discuss what you think the article is about, using all the new words:

*'India's  
xenophobic  
shame'*

**prejudice  
xenophobic  
racist  
caste  
solidarity  
to stone**



Before you read the article – do you think these statements are true or false?

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- 1/ Some Indians hate British people.**
- 2/ People found out about the attacks by mobile phone and social media.**
- 3/ The Indian government agrees that there is racism and xenophobia in India.**
- 4/ All Indians treat people from other countries like gods.**
- 5/ All students in Delhi were not allowed to leave their rooms because of the violence.**

*Now read to check>>*

The headlines in Indian newspapers now bring shame and sadness to many Indians. There have been several racist attacks on people who are 'not like us'. We've always had prejudice against castes and fights between communities (eg. Hindu and Muslim), but we think these are normal now.

In Delhi, last week, a boy was missing. Someone started saying that Nigerians had attacked and eaten the boy because they eat people. It is shocking how ignorant people can be today when almost everyone in Delhi has a mobile phone, uses social media and watches news around the world. Sadly, they found the boy. He had died from drugs. But people started saying the boy died because Africans had sold drugs to him. Newspapers reported that a group beat and almost killed a young Nigerian student in a shopping centre. This is not the first attack on Africans in Delhi. There has also been xenophobic violence against Africans and people from Northeastern India in Bangalore too. A group pulled an African woman out of a taxi and took all her clothes away. Another group beat an African with iron rods and stoned him to death. It is sad that the punishments for these crimes are not the headlines.

Millions of Indians have family and friends living and working all over the globe. There is a lot of anger when Indians face hate-crimes in the US and Australia. So how can we do this to visitors in our country?

Our government, every government, pretends that racism and xenophobia don't exist in India. It's not a serious crime. So there is very little action against the criminals – they often go free. This makes other people feel they can be racist too.

All this is totally against Indian culture: we should treat a visitor like a god. 'Atithi Devo Bhava' ('The guest is divine') is a phrase every Indian villager knows. Many people cannot understand these attacks. But they are very real for Africans who suffer. African students in Delhi messaged each other saying 'Don't leave your rooms, it's not safe.' What a shameful day for India.

Now, angry African representatives from several countries have demanded an independent investigation by the UN into the racist and xenophobic attacks on their students. Some people say that some African ambassadors have sent reports to their home countries telling them not to support India in becoming a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

They have seen that India does nothing about these racist attacks. If they don't do something that will affect our government, nothing will change. I hope India's non-racist, global community will support our African visitors. To show them we are not all the same. We are not all racists or xenophobic. We love African sports heroes. And Nelson Mandela. But that's not enough. We need to show solidarity here, in our country. In India. It's time for Africa.

Does  
xenophobia  
exist in your  
country or any  
other  
countries you  
know?

- 1) Why does xenophobia develop?**
- 2) Which groups of people suffer most? Where? Why?**
- 3) What can we do to stop xenophobia?**



Here are some negative things people say about people from different countries:

*'English people are really cold and unfriendly.'*

*'Scottish people are mean and drink too much.'*

*'Americans only think about how much money they have and how big their cars and houses are.'*

**Are they true?**

In pairs, re-write the same ideas using positive language eg.

*'It takes longer to get to know English people and they don't talk much to people they don't know.'*

# Class task:

Take

Take a post-it note each

Write

Write a nationality and something negative people say about people with this nationality (it could be your own country!)

Stick

Stick the post-its to the wall

Choose

Choose a post-it that another student wrote, and change what they wrote into positive language. Finally discuss all the changes.

# Homework:

Read the original article:

<https://newint.org/blog/majority/2017/04/07/india-xenophobia-shame/>

and read more Easier English articles from the New Internationalist Easier English wiki:

[https://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Main\\_Page](https://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Main_Page)

- then click on the original article at the bottom and read that too – you will be amazed how your English improves.