

Unit 2

Respecting cultures

Grammar

Present perfect; prepositions [on, amongst, in, for, of, with, at, by]

Mentoring matters

As a mentor, you will have the opportunity to:

- mentor selected pupils from schools, hospitals and nursing homes in your area;
- collaborate on creative projects and learn new skills;
- 5 • encourage individual aspirations for education and employment;
- break down barriers in your community.

"Mentoring opened many doors for me. It made me realise the different ways I could make use of my time and how fun it is to

10 *work with others."*

We are looking for successful professionals and students to join our exciting initiative throughout Kuwait.



Discuss

1 Look at the leaflet above and discuss these questions.

- a Why are they looking for 'successful professionals and students'?
- b Who can benefit from being mentored? Think about these groups: teenagers, young adults, middle-aged and elderly people.
- c How can mentoring schemes help build relationships in your community?

Read

2 Look at the photograph below, the Factfile and the headings of the article on page 19. Don't read the article



a The logo uses a world map, to represent the fact it is a worldwide organisation, and olive branches, to represent the global peace and security the UN endeavors to achieve.

b Students' own answers

c To discuss disagreements between countries and to create laws that enable countries to work together and live harmoniously.

What does the United Nations' logo to the right stand for?

d The topic of the article is 'Culture of Peace'.

Discuss with a partner the facts about the United Nations in the Factfile. Did you know about any of them? Do you know other information about the United Nations?

- c What is the main purpose of the UN?
- d What is the topic of the article? What kind of information do you think will be included?

3 Now read the article and the Factfile on page 19 and check your answers to question 2.

Factfile

- The UN was officially founded on 24th October, 1945.
- At the time it consisted of 51 member states.
- Currently the UN has 192 member states.
- The UN meets to discuss disagreements and to agree on rules and laws through which countries can work together and live harmoniously.
- The meeting for the Culture of Peace was held in New York on the 12th and 13th of November, 2008.
- More than 70 heads of state attended the meeting.

Culture of Peace

On the 12th November 2008, world leaders met in New York for a UN General Assembly meeting on the Culture of Peace. This meeting ⁵ emphasised the need for everyone to respect different cultures, religions and races. It also sought to emphasise our common humanity and shared moral values.

¹⁰ The participants of the meeting have called for the promotion of a culture of tolerance and mutual understanding. They have suggested that the best way this can be achieved is through international, intellectual and interfaith ¹⁵ dialogue.

Kuwait's Role in the Conference
Kuwait was one of over 70 member countries that sent delegates to the conference. His Highness the Amir ²⁰ of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah addressed the conference in a speech emphasising the importance of dialogue between different cultures. He called on leaders ²⁵ of all countries and creeds to engage in peaceful dialogue. By the end of the conference, he had also met with

numerous world leaders in private meetings.

What has Kuwait done to further the Culture of Peace?

- ³⁰ Kuwait has been a key innovator in furthering the Culture of Peace. Kuwait has organised conferences in London and Washington to promote mutual understanding and respect. Within ³⁵ Kuwait, the government has arranged seminars and programmes to raise awareness and promote respect and understanding amongst Kuwaiti citizens. Kuwait has also sponsored many ⁴⁰ regional and international conferences about religious tolerance among peoples and respect for the followers of other religions.
- With all of these activities, Kuwait is ⁴⁵ an exemplar of the kind of tolerance, dignity and respect that all people should aspire to in the hope of making the modern world a better place. As Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the UN has said, "One of the great challenges of our time must now surely be to ensure that our rich cultural diversity makes us more secure — not less."

Check your understanding

4 Read the article again. Are these statements True (T) or False (F)? Justify your answer.

- a The meeting's main emphasis was upon the lack of respect and values in the modern world. false

This meeting emphasized the need for everyone to respect different cultures, religions and races, but not the lack of respect and values.

- b More than 70 nations sent delegates to the conference. true

. Kuwait was one of the 70 member countries that sent delegates to the conference

- c Kuwaiti citizens have organised conferences for the government. false

. The government has organised conferences for Kuwaiti citizens.

- d Ban Ki-moon encouraged cultural diversity. true

. Ban Ki-moon said that cultural diversity must make us more secure – not less.

5 Complete these sentences using words from the article. Words can be used only once.

- a The meeting sought to emphasise our common humanity.
- b Kuwait has organised several conferences to raise awareness of moderation and understanding.

c Over 70 countries sent delegates to the meeting.

d It is important to respect the followers of other religions.

Words to remember

aspiration, creed, delegate, diversity, initiative, interfaith, mentor, seminar, tolerance

Think and speak (expressing personal opinions)

6 The Culture of Peace meeting aimed to show that everyone should treat each other with respect and tolerance.

- a Why is it important to respect and tolerate other people and other faiths?
- b What can be done to ensure people treat each other with respect?

Grammar

• Present perfect Grammar reference pages 125–126

1 Look at sentences 1–4 from the article on page 19.

- a What is the difference between sentence 1 and sentences 2–4?
- 1 On the 12th November 2008, world leaders met in New York.
 - 2 They have suggested that the best way this can be achieved is through dialogue.
 - 3 Kuwait has organised conferences in London and Washington.
 - 4 Kuwait has also sponsored many regional and international conferences.
- b Write two sentences telling only that something happened and two sentences telling that something happened and when it happened.

2 We can use the present perfect to say how long someone has done something for.

The term 'Islamic art' refers not only to religion, but to the richly diverse Islamic culture as well. Islamic art such as architecture, calligraphy and literature has been inspirational to many other artists throughout the world and has been consistently produced since at least the 7th century. You can find out more information about Islamic art this week at the Kuwait Book Fair, which has run for over 30 years.

- a Which sentence in this paragraph introduces a length of time?
b Which sentence introduces a particular time?

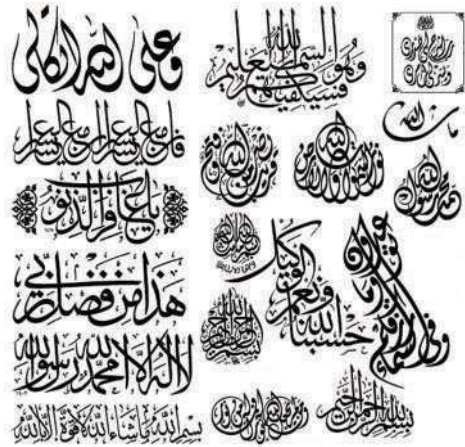
3 a Think about any interesting experiences you have had related to Islamic culture. For example:

- a famous mosque you have visited or seen
- different kinds of food you have eaten during Ramadan
- experiences of Islamic culture in other countries
- difficult skills you have mastered

b Write sentences like this:

*I've seen a rare copy of the Holy Qur'an.
I've visited the largest mosque in Europe.*

- c Now use them to make conversations with a partner.



• Prepositions [on, amongst, in, for, of, with, at, by] Grammar reference page 126

4 a Complete the sentences with the correct prepositions.

- (1) **on** the 12th November 2008, world leaders met (2) **in** New York (3) **for** a UN General Assembly (4) **on** the Culture (5) **of** Peace. Kuwait took part (6) **in** the meeting. (7) **at** the end of the conference, his Highness the Amir Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al- Jaber Al-Sabah had also met (8) **with** numerous world leaders in order (9) **to** raise awareness of respect and understanding (10) **amongst** Kuwaiti citizens.

- b What difference in meaning does each preposition have?

QUOTE "Great art can communicate before it is understood."
T.S. Eliot

1 on refers to time; 2 in refers to place; 3 for refers to purpose; 4 on refers to the topic; 5 of refers to the association of belonging between two entities 6 in refers to involvement 7 at refers to time; 8 with refers to accompaniment 9 to introduces an infinitive verb 10 amongst refers to the involvement of most or all members of a group reciprocally

Vocabulary Verbs with similar meanings

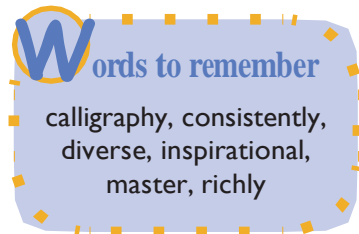
1 Answer these questions about *listen (to)* and *hear*.

- a Which verb means:
- 1 to receive a sound in your ears? *listen (to)* / *hear*
 - 2 to pay attention to a sound? *listen (to)* / *hear*
- b Complete these people's words with the correct form of *hear* or *listen (to)*.



2 Complete these sentences with the correct form of *look at*, *watch* or *see*.

- Look at** those people over there. What are they doing?
- I can't **see** very well without my glasses.
- The police **are watching** a house in our street. They think criminals are using it.
- If you **see** my brother, tell him I'll phone him tomorrow.
- You shouldn't **look at** the sun. It can damage your eyes.



3 Complete these sentences with the correct form of *say*, *tell* or *speak*.

- Waleed:** What did Bader **say** ?
Ahmed: He **said** he's learning to **speak** English.
- Waleed:** She **says** she used to live in Kuwait City. Is that true?
Ahmed: Yes, of course. She never **tells** lies.
- Waleed:** Hello. This is Waleed. Can I **speak** to Omar, please?
Ahmed: I'm sorry, he's out. I'll **tell** him you phoned.
- Waleed:** Can you **say** that again, please? I couldn't hear you.
Ahmed: The problem is, everyone in the room **is speaking** at the same time.

Pronunciation

4 (2.1) Listen and repeat these sentences. Stress the underlined word.

- That was a good film.
- That was a good film!
- The story was excellent.
- The story was excellent!

5 (2.2) Now listen and repeat these sentences.

Speaking Conducting a survey

Listen

1 (2.3) You are going to hear someone doing a survey in Kuwait City. Listen and answer these questions.

- a What is the subject of the survey?
- b What are the interviewer's two questions?
- c Why is it a useful survey?

2 (2.3) Listen again and answer these questions.

- a How does Ahmed think we should conduct ourselves?
- b Why does Samia think some people are wrong?
- c What does Samia describe as being 'about tolerance'?
- d Does Fahad have any older friends? Why?
- e Who else does he respect?

a Ahmed thinks we should always conduct ourselves with respect.

b Because they say that respect doesn't mean as much as it used to, while it means a lot to her and her friends.

c Considering strangers as 'neighbours' and respecting them even if they are different to her.

d Yes; because he thinks it's important to learn from their experience and wisdom.

e His family, education, history, people he doesn't know and himself.

- 3 a What language does the interviewer use to make the interviewee comfortable?
- b What language does the interviewee use to express opinion?

Do a survey

4 Work in pairs. You are going to do a survey among the other students in your class on the topic of 'respect'. Follow these stages:

- a Write survey questions to ask other students. Leave space to write answers.
Note: Every student should have a list of questions.
- b Practise asking and answering questions with your own partner.
Use your own ideas and expressions from the *Useful Language* box below.
- c Find other pairs of students. Take turns to interview each other.
As you do this, write down the other students' names and answers.
- d Ask as many classmates your questions as possible.

5 Now tell the class what you have found out from your survey.

USEFUL LANGUAGE

Starting a conversation

Hello. / Good morning. / Excuse me.

Asking permission to ask questions

Could I ask you a few questions?

Is it okay if I ask you a few questions?

Would you mind if I ...

Agreeing to answer questions

Yes, that's fine. / Yes, sure. / Yes, okay.

Thanking

I appreciate it.

I'm grateful.

Thanks for your time.

Responding to thanks

That's all right.

You're welcome.

That's okay.

Writing A review

Read and analyse

You are going to write a review of a book you have read.

1 Read these two book reviews quickly.

Which is a review of a book about ...

- history? **The second one**
- travel writing? **The first one**

2 Read the reviews again, and answer these questions.

- a Are the reviews good, bad or mixed? **It's a very good review**
- b What did the writers like or dislike? **They thought it was fascinating; They liked the descriptions; They thought it was very memorable and an excellent account**



Ibn Battuta's account of his thirty-year journey is a fascinating book. Born in Tangier in 1304, he left home for Makkah at the age of about twenty. Then he travelled through forty-four countries including Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, India and even China! He covered about 75,000 miles. Ibn Battuta's account includes descriptions of his pilgrimages, the cities he stayed in, local tales, and sea-adventures – so this is a book that everyone will enjoy! His memory of the events and places was amazing. And you will remember his stories for a long time, too. This is an excellent account of an amazing lifetime of travelling.



Ibn Khaldun

- a) **Another very good review**
- b) **They liked the discussion of serious ideas in a clear manner; They thought it was well-organised, well-written; and something you learn from**

Ibn Khaldun's *Muqaddimah* is one of the most important historical works ever written. Ibn Khaldun, the author, was born in Tunis in 1332 CE and was a high-ranking political figure. The work was ground-breaking and discussed many important theories which are still relevant today. Because of its complex content and purpose, the book is not easy to read. However, it is well-written and well-organised. Reading *The Muqaddimah* will make you think – and it will change your view of the world.

3 Find three facts and three opinions in each of the reviews.

Text 1) facts: a thirty-year journey; Ibn Battuta born in Tangier in 1304; 44 countries; covered 75,000 miles >> opinions: The book is fascinating; everyone

Words to remember

- account, conduct,
- cover, figure,
- ground-breaking,
- high-ranking, pilgrimage,
- relevant, review

4a Choose which book to review. Why do you respect it?

- b Use a mind map to make a list of important facts.
- c Make a note of your opinions. Use another mind map of adjectives and expressions you might use.

...d through 44 ...
...s an amazing ...
...ent account ...
...rn in Tunis in ...
...sed several ...

opinions: one of the most important historical works ever written; ground-breaking; not easy to read; well-written and well-organised; it makes you think and changes your view of the world

5a Write a general review in about 150-170 words. Use your notes from exercise 4 and the *Useful Language* box.

- b Check your spelling, grammar, punctuation and style.
- c Exchange reviews with another student. Does your partner's review give you enough information? If not, ask him / her questions.

USEFUL LANGUAGE

Expressing personal opinions

- This is a book that everyone will enjoy.
- It is a fascinating book.
- It is well-written / organised.

Making recommendations

- If you get the chance, read ...
- This is an excellent account of ...
- You will learn a lot from it.