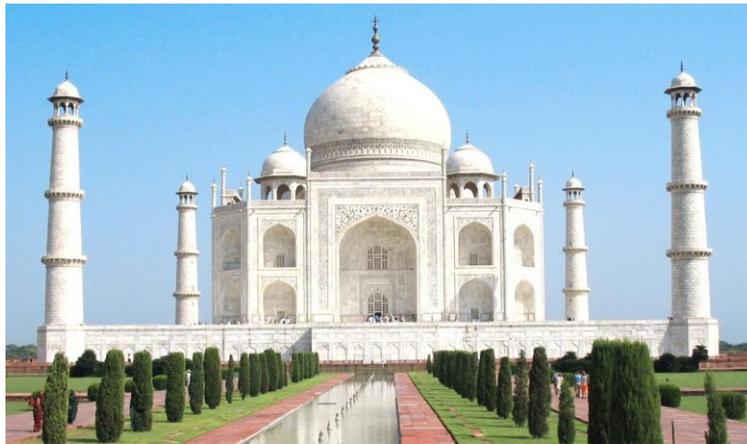


World 09: Taj Mahal (India)



<http://zetwet.com/blog/taj-mahal-pictures-and-travel-guide/>

Exercise 1 | Vocabulary and Expressions (Vocabulary and Expressions)

Directions: Listen and repeat.

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Vocabulary and Expressions	Example
mausoleum (mausoleum)	The Mausoleum of Ephesus was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.
house (house)	The inn can house up to 35 guests.
grief-stricken (grief-stricken)	I have never seen him as grief-stricken as when his dog ran away.
illustrate (illustrate)	Please illustrate this by a short example.
in my defense (in my defense)	I didn't do my homework but, in my defense , I was sick.
spouse (spouse)	The sports car would be the perfect way for you and your spouse to travel across Europe.
entrust (entrust)	I will entrust you with my credit card.
extravagant (extravagant)	We can eat anywhere. I don't have extravagant tastes.
gemstone (gemstone)	The ring features a wonderful green gemstone .
be under threat (be under threat)	We are under threat of being attacked by bears if we camp here.
pollution (pollution)	Pollution is the main reason for the fish population dropping so low.

Exercise 2 | Dialogue (Dialogue)

Directions: Read the dialogue aloud with your teacher.

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Maya is reading about Taj Mahal.

Her friend Ema has also been interested in Taj Mahal.

Maya : This article about Taj Mahal is quite interesting. I kept hearing about this building but I had no idea it was a **mausoleum** built by an emperor for his dead wife.

Ema : Oh really? Even I knew this much!

Maya : Well, **in my defense**, even when I asked people around me, they didn't know much either.

Ema : The emperor was grief-stricken when his wife died. In my opinion, spending 22 years on building a place that will **house** your **spouse's** corpse simply **illustrates** how much he treasured her.

Maya : I agree. It says here that the mausoleum was built with materials and precious stones from all over India and Asia. And more than 1000 elephants were used as transportation means for those materials. No wonder the name Taj Mahal means "crown of palaces"!

Ema : Yes, I know there are sapphire, jade, crystal and many other **gemstones**!

Maya : The emperor **entrusted** the design and construction of such an **extravagant** project not to one architect, but to a group of architects. Can you imagine how much effort was put into this?

Ema : Yes. And I suppose that now people must make efforts to preserve the building.

Maya : True. Apparently, because of the **pollution**, the Taj Mahal has been turning yellow. The structure **is under threat**.

Ema : True. I hope they take good care of it.

Exercise 3 | Filling in the Blanks (Filling in the Blanks)

Directions: Fill in the blanks below to complete the sentences.

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1. This old historical building was _____ of being demolished in order to build a new shopping mall.
2. We must do our best to take care of nature and to reduce _____.
3. I know I promised to come to work earlier, but, _____, my alarm clock had stopped working. I couldn't wake up when I had to.
4. We will _____ our foreign friends while they're visiting our city, so they don't have to go to a hotel.
5. She was accused of killing her _____.
6. He must be _____ after such bad news.
7. When he won the lottery, he bought an _____ car and showed off to everyone.
8. Her story perfectly _____ how hardworking people can get very far in their career.
9. I was _____ with taking care of my friend's children for a week.

spouse	under threat	in my defense
extravagant	pollution	illustrate
house	grief-stricken	entrust

Exercise 4 | Free Conversation (Free Conversation)

Directions: Take turns with your teacher in answering the questions

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1. Would you like to visit the Taj Mahal? Why or why not?
2. Is there any similar extravagant monument built in your country?
3. What do you think about pollution? Do you think there are some buildings or monuments in your country that may be under such a threat?
4. There is a myth that says the emperor planned to also build a Black Taj Mahal. Which one do you think would have more impact, a white one, or a black one?