

## Bridge cannot span the divide

Level 1 | Elementary

Croat and Muslim politicians in Mostar create divisions.

### 1 Key vocabulary

Fill the gaps using one of these words from the text:

united(adj)	attend(vb)	destroy (vb)	remove (vb)
separate (adj)	remarkable (adj)	optimistic (adj)	divided (adj)

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ city is a city in two or more parts.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ city is one where everyone lives together in peace.
3. If you \_\_\_\_\_ something, you damage it so seriously that it no longer exists.
4. An \_\_\_\_\_ person is one who always believes that good things will happen.
5. In most countries children \_\_\_\_\_ school from the age of 6.
6. If you \_\_\_\_\_ someone from power, you take away their power.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ means 'not together'.
8. If something is \_\_\_\_\_ it is very unusual or very surprising.

### 2 Find the information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible:

1. When was the Bosnian war?
2. When did the Turks build the Old Bridge in Mostar?
3. When did the international governor introduce new laws in Mostar?
4. How much did the new bridge cost?
5. How long is the new bridge?
6. How high is the bridge?

## Bridge cannot span the divide

Level 1 | Elementary

### Bridge cannot span the divide

Ian Traynor in Mostar

The city of Mostar lies on the River Neretva in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Before the Bosnian war of 1992-95, the Croats and Muslims of Mostar lived in a united city. Since the war, however, the city has been divided. The Croats live on the west bank of the river and the Muslims live on the east bank. Croats and Muslims go to different schools. They have different mobile telephone systems. Buses do not cross the river. If you live on the east bank of the river you cannot order a pizza from the pizza restaurant on the west bank.

During the war the Croats destroyed the famous old stone bridge over the Neretva, which the Turks built in 1566. The bridge fell into the river. Many people saw this as a symbol of the division of the city into two parts.

In March 2004, the international governor of Bosnia introduced some new laws for the city. He removed the old Croat and Muslim town councils and formed a new single council for the city. In June 2004 the Croat and Muslim firefighting services joined together and became a single firefighting service. Then in July the two ambulance services joined together and became a single ambulance service.

Then last week something remarkable happened. Milan Milesovic, a Croat ambulance driver from the Croat west side of Mostar, drove his ambulance across one of the bridges over the Neretva River to help a sick Muslim on the other side. "I'm just doing my job. It's normal", he said.

The Croats have also said that Muslim schoolchildren can attend the beautiful old grammar school in September. They will, however, be on a separate floor and will have a different educational programme from the Croats.

Finally, last week, the Old Bridge reopened again. The work took many years and cost \$9m. The bridge is a perfect copy of the old Turkish bridge and is 27m long and stands 18m above the river. Princes, presidents and prime ministers from all over Europe attended the opening of the "new Old Bridge". Many people see the opening as a symbol of hope for the future.

But one western official, who has been in Bosnia for more than five years, is not so optimistic. He says that the Croat and Muslim politicians in Mostar are making the divisions between the Croats and the Muslims even greater.

*The Guardian Weekly* 20-07-04, page 3

## Bridge cannot span the divide

Level 1 | Elementary

### 3 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer.

1. The city of Mostar is ...
  - a. united
  - b. divided
  - c. optimistic
2. Milan Miletovic is ...
  - a. an ambulance driver
  - b. a firefighter
  - c. the international governor of Bosnia
3. In 1566 the Turks built ...
  - a. Mostar
  - b. a huge mosque
  - c. a stone bridge
4. The new bridge is ...
  - a. a perfect copy of the old bridge
  - b. a concrete bridge for buses to use
  - c. a symbol of the division of the city
5. The Muslims of Mostar live ...
  - a. on the west bank of the river
  - b. on the east bank of the river
  - c. on both banks of the river

### 4 Vocabulary 1 - Find the Verbs

	Noun	Verb		Noun	Verb
1.	division	_____	5.	formation	_____
2.	introduction	_____	6.	attendance	_____
3.	education	_____	7.	destruction	_____
4.	order	_____	8.	copy	_____

## Bridge cannot span the divide

Level 1 | Elementary

### 5 Vocabulary 2 - Prepositions

Fill the gaps using prepositions:

1. Mostar lies \_\_\_\_\_ the River Neretva.
2. Mostar has been divided \_\_\_\_\_ the Bosnian war.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ the war it was a united city.
4. The Croats live \_\_\_\_\_ the west bank of the river.
5. The new bridge is a perfect copy \_\_\_\_\_ the old bridge.
6. The bridge is a symbol of hope \_\_\_\_\_ the future.
7. The Turks built the Old Bridge \_\_\_\_\_ 1566.
8. Very few people travel \_\_\_\_\_ the river.

### 6 Grammar Focus - Irregular Past Tenses

Look at this example from the text:

*He **drove** his ambulance over one of the bridges...*

‘drove’ is the irregular past simple of the verb ‘drive’

Complete the table with the past simple forms of these other irregular verbs from the text:

1. lie	_____	2. build	_____
3. see	_____	4. become	_____
5. cost	_____	6. make	_____
7. stand	_____	8. fall	_____

## Bridge cannot span the divide

Level 1 | Elementary

### Key

#### 1 Key Vocabulary

- |            |           |             |               |
|------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. divided | 2. united | 3. destroy  | 4. optimistic |
| 5. attend  | 6. remove | 7. separate | 8. remarkable |

#### 2 Find the information

- |            |         |               |
|------------|---------|---------------|
| 1. 1992-95 | 2. 1566 | 3. March 2004 |
| 4. \$9m    | 5. 27m  | 6. 18m        |

#### 3 Comprehension Check

1. b; 2. a; 3. c; 4. a; 5. b

#### 4 Vocabulary 1 Find the Verbs

- |           |              |            |          |
|-----------|--------------|------------|----------|
| 1. divide | 2. introduce | 3. educate | 4. order |
| 5. form   | 6. attend    | 7. destroy | 8. copy  |

#### 5 Vocabulary 2 Prepositions

- |       |          |           |           |
|-------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. on | 2. since | 3. before | 4. on     |
| 5. of | 6. for   | 7. in     | 8. across |

#### 6 Grammar Focus Irregular Past Tenses

- |         |          |          |           |
|---------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. lay  | 2. built | 3. saw   | 4. became |
| 5. cost | 6. made  | 7. stood | 8. fell   |