



Lesson Four:

Lesson Four: Resolving Conflicts Student Version Handout 4.1

Name _____

Lesson Four Vocabulary Words

Government: the office, authority, or functioning organization that makes laws and controls a political unit such as a city, state, or country. (Recommended Vocabulary K-9, Qatar English Standards, Grade 7)

Guilty: responsible for having committed a crime. (Recommended Vocabulary K-9, Qatar English Standards, Grade 9)

Executive Authority: the power to enforce laws. In Qatar, executive authority is held by the H.H. the Emir and the Council of Ministers.

Innocent: not responsible for having committed a crime. (Recommended Vocabulary K-9, Qatar English Standards, Grade 9)

Judicial Authority: the power to interpret the meanings of laws as applied to specific cases, as in judges in the courts of law.

Legislative Authority: the power to make laws. In Qatar legislative authority is held by the Advisory Council, in consultation with H.H. the Emir and his ministers.

Traffic: the vehicles and pedestrians moving along a route. (Recommended Vocabulary K-9, Qatar English Standards, Grade 6)

Vehicle: a device with wheels used to transport people or objects. (Recommended Vocabulary K-9, Qatar English Standards, Grade 7)





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No Vehicles in the Park



The city of Umm Khor established a lovely new park last year. Park goers have complained about **traffic** in the area, which creates noise, pollution, and safety hazards for those walking, playing, and picnicking along the park paths. Two people were almost hit by cars in the park last week! The local **government** wishes to make the park safer and more pleasant for visitors hoping to enjoy a natural environment with open grassy spaces, trees, flowers, and quiet. The municipal council, which enacts laws for the city, recently passed a ban on **vehicles** in the park, hoping to fix the traffic problem. Signs reading “No Vehicles in the Park” were posted at all entrances to the park. The municipal council did not offer any other information about the new law, simply saying, “No more vehicles in the park.”

Instructions: Use the story above to answer the following questions. Be prepared to explain your answers.

1. Why did the municipal council of Umm Khor decide to ban vehicles from the park? What is the new law designed to do? What is the intent of the new law?

2. The municipal council did not explain what they meant by “vehicles,” so let’s review the definition:

Vehicle: a device with wheels used to transport people or objects. (Recommended Vocabulary K-9, Qatar English Standards, Grade 7)

Using this definition of “vehicle,” what do you think the municipal court meant? Why?





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You Be the Judge



Instructions: Read through the following case studies. After each case study, vote on whether you think the action described violated the “No Vehicles in the Park” law. You will vote **guilty** (wrongfully violated the law) or **innocent** (did not violate the law).

Case 1

Two police cars are chasing a suspected criminal. One of the police cars cuts through the park to get in front of the suspect's car and trap him between the police cars.

___ Guilty

___ Innocent

Case 2

An ambulance has a dying car accident victim in it and is racing to the hospital. The ambulance takes the shortest route, which is through the park.

___ Guilty

___ Innocent

Case 3

A husband and wife take their baby to the park in a baby buggy.

___ Guilty

___ Innocent

Case 4

A monument to citizens who have served in the military is being constructed. A tank, donated by the government, is placed beside the monument.

___ Guilty

___ Innocent

Case 5

There are many waste bins in the park so that people may deposit litter there and keep the park clean. The sanitation department goes into the park with its trucks to collect the trash.

___ Guilty

___ Innocent





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Case 6

A man lives on one side of the park and works on the other. To save time on his commute, he rides his motorized scooter through the park.

_____ Guilty

_____ Innocent

Case 7

Some children who visit the park ride their bicycles there.

_____ Guilty

_____ Innocent

Case 8

Several of the town's citizens have made a living for several years by driving people around scenic spots in the city in an old-fashioned horse and buggy. They want to drive people through the park.

_____ Guilty

_____ Innocent

Case 9

Children who visit the park want to roller skate there.

_____ Guilty

_____ Innocent

Case 10

Some neighborhood boys want to race their remote-controlled trucks in the park. They put stones in the back and see whose truck can pull the most weight.

_____ Guilty

_____ Innocent

Writing Activity: Write Your Decision

Choose one of the case studies you voted on. In a written opinion of at least six sentences, explain why you voted as you did. Your opinion should include:

- Your interpretation of what the language of the law—especially the word “vehicle”—means.
- Why you think the person (or persons) described in the case study was guilty or innocent of violating the law.
- What you think the consequences of your decision would be for other users of the park.





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Should This Law Be Changed?



You are a member of the municipal council. You and your fellow council members have been paying attention to cases that have come before the court regarding the “No Vehicles in the Park” law. You have been asked to reconsider the law and see if it would be possible to come up with better wording for the law.

The Current Umm Khor Law: No Vehicles in the Park

Write proposed new language for the signs that are posted at the entrance to the park. The

proposed language should try to define more clearly what types of “vehicle” are or are not prohibited by the law, clarify some of the confusion and avoid some of the problems raised by the case studies.

Proposed New Law from the Umm Khor Municipal Council:

1. How is the proposed new law an improvement from the original law?

2. How does the proposed new law better reflect the real life needs and circumstances of the citizens of Umm Khor?





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Instructions: Create a new sign to post in the park using your new law.

