Halal

1 Before reading the text, match these words with their definitions.

1.	Blood-thirsty	**a.**	To prohibit.
2.	To slaughter	**b.**	The bony skeleton of the head.
3.	To shoot a bolt	**c.**	Enjoying the sight of violence.
4.	To wring	**d.**	A measurement indicated by a scientific instrument.
5.	To slit	**e.**	To make a hole by firing a weapon.
6.	To ban	**f.**	To twist and compress to squeeze.
7.	To dictate	**g.**	To prescribe with authority.
8.	Skull	**h.**	To make a long, straight, narrow cut.
9.	Reading	**i.**	To shake or agitate violently.
10.	To convulse	**j.**	Thick cord of nerve tissue within the spinal canal.
11.	Spinal cord	**k.**	To have a strong effect (on).
12.	To impact	**l.**	To kill animals especially for food.

2 Match the beginnings and endings.

a.	Shooting a bolt into a sheep's brain or wringing a chicken's neck seems…	**1.**	the absence of blood makes it resistant to bacteria.
b.	Many countries have stated that the animals should be…	**2.**	electrodes in the skull of some animals.
c.	German researchers implanted several…	**3.**	rendered unconscious before slaughtering.
d.	Some animals were subsequently slaughtered…	**4.**	to be less painful than slitting its throat.
e.	Other animals were stunned before…	**5.**	as a reflex reaction of the spinal cord.
f.	The animals slaughtered by the halal method seemed to reveal…	**6.**	by making a deep incision with a sharp knife on the neck.
g.	The body was convulsing vigorously…	**7.**	the meat less resistant to bacteria.
h.	In case of slaughter by the Western method the EEG readings…	**8.**	indicated severe pain immediately after stunning.
i.	The lactic acid makes…	**9.**	no pain from the cut itself.
j.	Halal meat stays fresh longer because…	**10.**	slaughter using a pistol method.

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3 Re-order these paragraphs.

What is a Barbaric Blood-thirsty Slaughter?

a. ☐ This is the reason why many countries have banned the Islamic slaughtering, dictating that the animals should be rendered unconscious before slaughtering, by means of stunning or electrocution.

b. ☐ Nevertheless, scientific researches seem to prove the contrary. A few decades ago a German team of the Hannover University implanted several electrodes in the skull of some animals: of these some were subsequently slaughtered the halal way by making a swift, deep incision with a sharp knife on the neck, cutting their jugular veins, carotid arteries, trachea and esophagus. The remainder were stunned before slaughter using a pistol method. The EEG and ECG recordings allowed the team to monitor the condition of the brain and heart. With the halal method of slaughter, there was no change in the EEG graph for the first three seconds after the incision was made, indicating that the animal did not feel any pain from the cut itself, while the following three seconds were characterised by a condition of deep sleep-like unconsciousness.

c. ☐ On the other hand, the Islamic method seems to guarantee a less painful death for the animal and a healthier meat for the consumer: halal meat tastes better, is more tender, is healthier and stays fresh longer because the absence of blood makes it resistant to bacteria.

d. ☐ How should an animal be slaughtered to avoid cruelty? What's better and more



'human', Western or halal slaughtering method? Just watching the different procedures, we cannot actually know what the animal feels. Apparently, shooting a bolt into a sheep's brain or wringing a chicken's neck is less painful than slitting its throat.

e. ☐ On the contrary, the animals slaughtered by the Western method were apparently unconscious after stunning, but the EEG readings indicated severe pain immediately after stunning. The stunning method makes mass butchery easier but causes the animals to secrete lactic acid, which makes the meat less resistant to bacteria and negatively impacts its taste.

f. ☐ Thereafter, the EEG recorded a zero reading, indicating no pain at all, yet at that time the heart was still beating, pumping out almost all the blood from the body, which was convulsing vigorously as a reflex reaction of the spinal cord.

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4 Read the text again and say if the sentences are true or false. Correct the false ones.

	T	F
a. At first sight we cannot know which slaughter method is less painful.	☐	☐
b. The Islamic slaughtering is forbidden in many countries.	☐	☐
c. Scientific research has been made recently.	☐	☐
d. German researchers examined only animals killed by halal method.	☐	☐
e. The condition of the brain and heart were monitored through EEG and ECG.	☐	☐
f. The body's convulsion is a reflex reaction of the spinal cord.	☐	☐
g. The stunning method compromises the meat taste.	☐	☐
h. The Islamic method causes a more painful death than the Western method.	☐	☐

5 Answer the questions.

a. In which countries is the halal slaughtering method used?

b. Which does the Western culture consider more painful: shooting a bolt into an animal's brain or slaughtering?

c. Who proved the contrary?

d. What is used to slaughter an animal?

e. How is this method called?

f. What was the result of the ECG on slaughtered animals?

g. What makes the meat less resistant to bacteria and compromises its taste?

h. Why does the halal meat stay fresh longer?



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