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Level 6

Republicans and Obama in debt crisis talks

13th October, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131013-us-shutdown.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131013-us-shutdown.html>

After more than ten days of stalemate in the U.S., things have finally begun to start moving. President Barack Obama and the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, John Boehner, sat down for talks on Thursday about the impasse over the partial U.S. government shutdown and the looming debt crisis. Their discussions didn't lead to any certain outcome, but analysts are taking a positive note that talks are happening. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor said the talks were "very useful" and "clarifying". Hopes are that the two sides will agree on a temporary increase to the \$16.7 trillion U.S. debt limit. Failure to do so by October 17 could have dire consequences for the global economy.

A Wall Street Journal / NBC News poll found 53 per cent of those surveyed blamed Republicans for the government shutdown, while 31 per cent blamed President Obama. Observers from other countries are having trouble understanding what is going on in U.S. politics. The Times of India wrote: "What is chilling is that US politicians are willing to engage in a game of brinkmanship that is tantamount to detonating a nuclear device over their economy." A UAE businessman commented that: "There is something fundamentally wrong with a system that leaves a country without direction, in stagnation, without a budget and potentially without the wherewithal to settle its debts."

Sources: <http://www.voanews.com/content/obama-encouraged-by-offer-of-debt-limit-deal/1767272.html>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-24483014>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-24467534>

WARM-UPS

1. U.S. POLITICS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about U.S. politics. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

stalemate / talks / government shutdown / analysts / debt limit / global economy / Republicans / U.S. politics / brinkmanship / fundamentally wrong / stagnation

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. ISSUES: What do you think of these big issues commonly discussed in America? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Democrat view	Republican view	Your view
Taxes			
Military spending			
"Obama-care"			
Size of government			
Gay marriage			
The "War on Terror"			

4. STRONG USA: Students A **strongly** believe the USA will bounce back stronger from this current crisis; Students B **strongly** believe not. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. USA: Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the things that the USA is great for at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- democracy
- equal rights
- food
- education
- human rights
- world peace
- economic stability
- freedom of speech

6. GOVERNMENT: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "government". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131013-us-shutdown.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. There has been 10 days of checkmate in U.S. politics. | T / F |
| b. President Obama sat down for talks with the House Majority Leader. | T / F |
| c. The House Majority Leader said he wanted more clarification. | T / F |
| d. The size of the U.S. debt limit is currently \$16.7 trillion. | T / F |
| e. More people blame Obama's opponents than Obama. | T / F |
| f. An Indian newspaper criticized the U.S. for endangering its economy. | T / F |
| g. The newspaper said the U.S. should reduce its nuclear devices. | T / F |
| h. A UAE businessman is shocked at the system of US government. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. stalemate / impasse | a. equal to |
| 2. partial | b. provisional |
| 3. clarifying | c. pay |
| 4. temporary | d. deadlock |
| 5. dire | e. frightening |
| 6. blamed | f. limited |
| 7. chilling | g. take part in |
| 8. engage | h. terrible |
| 9. tantamount | i. accused |
| 10. settle | j. illuminating |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. After more than ten days | a. of brinkmanship |
| 2. the impasse over the partial | b. increase |
| 3. analysts are taking a | c. U.S. government shutdown |
| 4. agree on a temporary increase | d. of stalemate |
| 5. have dire consequences | e. positive note |
| 6. 53 per cent | f. wrong |
| 7. having trouble understanding | g. for the global economy |
| 8. engage in a game | h. what is going on |
| 9. something fundamentally | i. its debts |
| 10. settle | j. of those surveyed |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131013-us-shutdown.html>

After more than ten days of (1) _____ in the U.S., things have finally begun to start (2) _____. President Barack Obama and the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, John Boehner, sat down for (3) _____ on Thursday about the impasse over the partial U.S. government shutdown and the (4) _____ debt crisis. Their discussions didn't lead to any certain outcome, but analysts are taking a positive (5) _____ that talks are happening. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor said the talks were "very useful" and "clarifying". Hopes are that the two (6) _____ will agree on a temporary increase to the \$16.7 trillion U.S. debt (7) _____. Failure to do so by October 17 could have (8) _____ consequences for the global economy.

dire
moving
sides
looming
stalemate
limit
talks
note

A Wall Street Journal / NBC News (9) _____ found 53 per cent of those (10) _____ blamed Republicans for the government shutdown, while 31 per cent blamed President Obama. Observers from other countries are having (11) _____ understanding what is going on in U.S. politics. The Times of India wrote: "What is (12) _____ is that US politicians are willing to (13) _____ in a game of brinkmanship that is tantamount to detonating a nuclear device over their economy." A UAE businessman commented that: "There is something (14) _____ wrong with a system that leaves a country without (15) _____, in stagnation, without a budget and potentially without the wherewithal to (16) _____ its debts."

engage
trouble
settle
poll
direction
surveyed
chilling
fundamentally

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131013-us-shutdown.html>

- 1) After more than ten days of _____
 - a. stalemate in the U.S.
 - b. state mate in the U.S.
 - c. stale made in the U.S.
 - d. steel made in the U.S.
- 2) the impasse over the partial U.S. government shutdown and the _____
 - a. blooming debt crisis
 - b. loom in debt crisis
 - c. loo Ming debt crisis
 - d. looming debt crisis
- 3) Eric Cantor said the talks were "very useful" _____
 - a. and "clarify in."
 - b. and "clarification."
 - c. and "clarifies in."
 - d. and "clarifying."
- 4) the two sides will agree on a temporary increase to the \$16.7 trillion _____
 - a. U.S. debt limits
 - b. U.S. debt limit
 - c. U.S. debt limiting
 - d. U.S. debt limited
- 5) Failure to do so by October 17 could _____
 - a. have dire consequence
 - b. have dire consequential
 - c. have dire consequences
 - d. have dire consequentially
- 6) 53 per cent of those surveyed _____
 - a. blamed Republicans
 - b. flamed Republicans
 - c. claimed Republicans
 - d. maimed Republicans
- 7) other countries are having trouble understanding what _____
 - a. is go in on
 - b. is going on
 - c. is go in off
 - d. is going down
- 8) US politicians are willing to engage in a _____
 - a. game of craftsmanship
 - b. game of championship
 - c. game of brinkmanship
 - d. game of one-upmanship
- 9) something fundamentally wrong with a system that leaves a country _____
 - a. without directive
 - b. without director
 - c. without directed
 - d. without direction
- 10) potentially without the wherewithal to _____
 - a. petal its debts
 - b. settle its debts
 - c. mettle its debts
 - d. kettle its debts

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131013-us-shutdown.html>

After more than ten (1) _____ the U.S., things have finally begun to start moving. President Barack Obama and the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, John Boehner, (2) _____ on Thursday about (3) _____ the partial U.S. government shutdown and (4) _____ crisis. Their discussions didn't lead to any certain outcome, but analysts are taking a positive note that talks are happening. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor said the talks were "very useful" and "clarifying". Hopes (5) _____ sides will agree on a temporary increase to the \$16.7 trillion U.S. debt limit. Failure to do so by October 17 (6) _____ consequences for the global economy.

A Wall Street Journal / NBC News poll found 53 per (7) _____ blamed Republicans for the government shutdown, while 31 per cent blamed President Obama. Observers from other countries are having trouble understanding (8) _____ U.S. politics. The Times of India wrote: "What (9) _____ US politicians are willing to engage in a game of brinkmanship (10) _____ to detonating a nuclear device over their economy." A UAE businessman commented that: "There is something (11) _____ with a system that leaves a country without direction, in stagnation, without a budget and potentially (12) _____ to settle its debts."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131013-us-shutdown.html>

1. How many days of deadlock were there in the U.S. before talks began?

2. Who did President Obama sit down and talk to?

3. How are analysts viewing the talks?

4. What is Eric Cantor's position?

5. By when must politicians decide about the debt limit?

6. What percentage of people blamed President Obama for the shutdown?

7. What are other countries having trouble doing?

8. To what did an Indian newspaper compare the actions of US politicians?

9. Who said there was something "fundamentally wrong" with the US?

10. What did a businessman say the USA might not be able to do?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131013-us-shutdown.html>

1. How many days of deadlock were there in the U.S. before talks began?
 - a) 9
 - b) over 10
 - c) two weeks
 - d) exactly 10
2. Who did President Obama sit down and talk to?
 - a) Vladimir Putin
 - b) Oprah Winfrey
 - c) John Boehner
 - d) Eric Cantor
3. How are analysts viewing the talks?
 - a) skeptically
 - b) negatively
 - c) carefully
 - d) positively
4. What is Eric Cantor's position?
 - a) Treasury Secretary
 - b) House Majority Leader
 - c) Secretary of State
 - d) Speaker of the House
5. By when must politicians decide about the debt limit?
 - a) 17th October
 - b) the end of this year
 - c) Friday, October 25
 - d) the last day of the month
6. What percentage of people blamed President Obama for the shutdown?
 - a) 32
 - b) 17
 - c) 53
 - d) 16.7
7. What are other countries having trouble doing?
 - a) playing a game of brinkmanship
 - b) controlling the U.S. dollar
 - c) talking to President Obama
 - d) understanding US politics
8. To what did an Indian newspaper compare the actions of US politicians?
 - a) a third-world nation
 - b) aliens and madmen
 - c) exploding a nuclear bomb
 - d) a horror movie
9. Who said there was something "fundamentally wrong" with the US?
 - a) an Indian newspaper editor
 - b) Barack Obama
 - c) Vladimir Putin
 - d) a UAE businessman
10. What did a businessman say the USA might not be able to do?
 - a) recover
 - b) pay its debts
 - c) be democratic
 - d) stay as the world's #1 economy

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131013-us-shutdown.html>

Role A – Human rights

You think the U.S. is best for human rights. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which of these America is worst at (and why): world peace, good food or democracy.

Role B – World peace

You think the U.S. is best for world peace. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which of these America is worst at (and why): human rights, good food or democracy.

Role C – Good food

You think the U.S. is best for good food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which of these America is worst at (and why): world peace, human rights or democracy.

Role D – Democracy

You think the U.S. is best for democracy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which of these America is worst at (and why): world peace, good food or human rights.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131013-us-shutdown.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'debt' and 'limit'.

debt	limit
-------------	--------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• finally• impasse• certain• note• sides• dire	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• surveyed• 31• going• game• wrong• settle
---	---

U.S. POLITICS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131013-us-shutdown.html>

Write five GOOD questions about U.S. politics in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

U.S. POLITICS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'government'?
- c) What do you know about the cause of the U.S. government shutdown?
- d) Could something like this happen in your country?
- e) Has this crisis damaged America's image around the world?
- f) Why didn't leaders talk to each other for over 10 days?
- g) What do you think American people think about their leaders?
- h) Are analysts right to be positive about the situation?
- i) What happens if the USA does not raise its debt limit?
- j) What questions would you like to ask John Boehner?

Republicans and Obama in debt crisis talks – 13th October, 2013
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U.S. POLITICS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Who do you think is to blame for the shutdown?
- c) Why are people blaming the Republicans?
- d) Why are people blaming President Obama?
- e) Has your view of President Obama changed because of this crisis?
- f) What do you think of the comment from the Times of India?
- g) Is the UAE man right – that there is something badly wrong with America's system of government?
- h) What's your advice to the U.S. politicians?
- i) Who will be hurt most if U.S. politicians cannot find a solution?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Barack Obama?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131013-us-shutdown.html>

After more than ten days of (1) _____ in the U.S., things have finally begun to start moving. President Barack Obama and the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, John Boehner, sat down for (2) _____ on Thursday about the impasse over the partial U.S. government shutdown and the (3) _____ debt crisis. Their discussions didn't lead to any certain (4) _____, but analysts are taking a positive note that talks are happening. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor said the talks were "very useful" and "(5) _____." Hopes are that the two sides will agree on a temporary increase to the \$16.7 trillion U.S. debt limit. Failure to do so by October 17 could have (6) _____ consequences for the global economy.

A Wall Street Journal / NBC News poll found 53 per cent of those (7) _____ blamed Republicans for the government shutdown, while 31 per cent blamed President Obama. Observers from other countries are (8) _____ trouble understanding what is going on in U.S. politics. The Times of India wrote: "What is (9) _____ is that US politicians are willing to engage in a (10) _____ of brinkmanship that is tantamount to detonating a nuclear device over their economy." A UAE businessman commented that: "There is something (11) _____ wrong with a system that leaves a country without direction, in stagnation, without a budget and potentially without the wherewithal to (12) _____ its debts."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. | (a) stalemate | (b) checkmate | (c) intimate | (d) soulmate |
| 2. | (a) talkies | (b) talking | (c) talks | (d) talkative |
| 3. | (a) teeming | (b) seeming | (c) looming | (d) booming |
| 4. | (a) income | (b) outgoing | (c) ongoing | (d) outcome |
| 5. | (a) clarify | (b) clarification | (c) clarifying | (d) clarity |
| 6. | (a) fuel | (b) dire | (c) shun | (d) nope |
| 7. | (a) surveys | (b) surveyed | (c) surveyors | (d) servants |
| 8. | (a) seeing | (b) having | (c) meeting | (d) opening |
| 9. | (a) freezing | (b) frosting | (c) chilling | (d) icing |
| 10. | (a) final | (b) pastime | (c) activity | (d) game |
| 11. | (a) fundamentals | (b) fundamentalist | (c) fundamental | (d) fundamentally |
| 12. | (a) land | (b) soothe | (c) inhabit | (d) settle |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131013-us-shutdown.html>

Paragraph 1

1. more than ten days of eealttasm
2. talks on Thursday about the pisaesm
3. the rapltai U.S. government shutdown
4. snstayla are taking a positive note
5. agree on a rrmyotaep increase
6. have dire neuscqeencso

Paragraph 2

7. 53 per cent of those erevdysu blamed Republicans
8. eorsrebvs from other countries
9. a game of arbninkhsip
10. ntgoeaidtn a nuclear device
11. something mltalduenyna wrong
12. without the tihrweewhal to settle its debts

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131013-us-shutdown.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () to do so by October 17 could have dire consequences for the global economy.
- () without a budget and potentially without the wherewithal to settle its debts."
- () debt crisis. Their discussions didn't lead to any certain outcome, but analysts are taking a positive
- () chilling is that US politicians are willing to engage in a game of brinkmanship that is tantamount to detonating
- () A Wall Street Journal / NBC News poll found 53 per cent of those surveyed blamed Republicans
- () note that talks are happening. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor said the talks were "very useful"
- () a nuclear device over their economy." A UAE businessman commented that: "There is something
- () having trouble understanding what is going on in U.S. politics. The Times of India wrote: "What is
- (**1**) After more than ten days of stalemate in the U.S., things have finally begun to start
- () for the government shutdown, while 31 per cent blamed President Obama. Observers from other countries are
- () and "clarifying". Hopes are that the two sides will agree on a temporary increase to the \$16.7 trillion U.S. debt limit. Failure
- () fundamentally wrong with a system that leaves a country without direction, in stagnation,
- () moving. President Barack Obama and the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, John Boehner, sat down
- () for talks on Thursday about the impasse over the partial U.S. government shutdown and the looming

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131013-us-shutdown.html>

1. days more U.S. the of than stalemate ten After in.

2. certain didn't outcome lead to Their any discussions.

3. that Taking talks a are positive happening note.

4. will that agree the two Hopes sides are.

5. the for consequences dire Have economy global.

6. those 53 surveyed per blamed cent Republicans of.

7. what U.S. in is Trouble going understanding politics on.

8. engage in game brinkmanship are a of Politicians willing to.

9. country system without that direction leaves a A.

10. wherewithal debts the its without settle Potentially to.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131013-us-shutdown.html>

After more than ten days of *checkmate / stalemate* in the U.S., things have finally begun to start *movements / moving*. President Barack Obama and the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, John Boehner, sat down for *talking / talks* on Thursday about the impasse over the *partially / partial* U.S. government shutdown and the *looming / blooming* debt crisis. Their discussions didn't lead to any certain outcome, but analysts are taking a positive *notation / note* that talks are happening. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor said the talks were "very useful" and "*clarification*" / "*clarifying*". *Hopes / Hopers* are that the two sides will agree on a temporary increase to the \$16.7 *trillion / quadrillion* U.S. debt limit. Failure to do so by October 17 could have *dire / mire* consequences for the global economy.

A Wall Street Journal / NBC News poll found 53 per cent of those *surveys / surveyed* blamed Republicans for the government *clampdown / shutdown*, while 31 per cent *blamed / blaming* President Obama. Observers from other countries are having *trouble / problem* understanding what is going on in U.S. politics. The Times of India wrote: "What is *frosting / chilling* is that US politicians are willing to *engage / marry* in a game of brinkmanship that is *tantamount / paramount* to detonating a nuclear *vice / device* over their economy." A UAE businessman commented that: "There is something *fundamentally / fundamentals* wrong with a system that leaves a country without direction, in stagnation, without a budget and potentially without the wherewithal to *settle / land* its debts."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131013-us-shutdown.html>

_ft_r m_r_ th_n t_n d_ys _f st_l_m_t_ _n th_ _S.,
th_ngs h_v_ f_n_lly b_g_n t_ st_rt m_v_ng. Pr_s_d_nt
B_r_ck _b_m_ _nd th_ R_p_bl_c_n Sp__k_r _f th_
H__s_ _f R_pr_s_nt_t_v_s, J_hn B__hn_r, s_t d_wn f_r
t_lks _n Th_rsd_y _b__t th_ _mp_ss_ _v_r th_ p_rt__l
_S. g_v_rnm_nt sh_td_wn _nd th_ l__m_ng d_bt
cr_s_s. Th__r d_sc_ss__ns d_dn't l__d t_ _ny c_rt__n
__tc_m_, b_t _n_lysts _r_t_k_ng _p_s_t_v_n_t th_t
t_lks _r_ h_pp_n_ng. H__s_ M_j_r_ty L__d_r _r_c
C_nt_r s__d th_ t_lks w_r_ "v_ry _s_f_l" _nd
"cl_rfy_ng." H_p_s_r th_t th_ tw_ s_d_s w_ll _gr__
_n _t mp_r_ry _ncr__s_ t_ th_ \$16.7 tr_ll__n _S.
d_bt l_m_t. F__l_r_t_d_s by _ct_b_r 17 c__ld h_v_
d_r_ c_ns_q__nc_s f_r th_ gl_b_l _c_n_my.

_ W_ll Str__t J__rn_l / NBC N_ws p_ll f__nd 53 p_r_c_nt
_f th_s_ s_rv_y_d bl_m_d R_p_bl_c_ns f_r th_
g_v_rnm_nt sh_td_wn, wh_l_ 31 p_r_c_nt bl_m_d
Pr_s_d_nt _b_m_. _bs_rv_rs fr_m th_r c__ntr__s _r_
h_v_ng tr__bl_ _nd_rst_nd_ng wh_t _s g__ng _n _n
_S. p_l_t_cs. Th_ T_m_s _f _nd__ wr_t_: "Wh_t _s
ch_ll_ng _s th_t S_p_l_t_c__ns _r_w_ll_ng t__ng_g_
_n _g_m_ _f br_nkm_nsh_p th_t _s t_nt_m__nt t_
d_t_n_t_ng _n cl__r d_v_c_ _v_r th__r _c_n_my." _
___ b_s_n_ssm_n c_mm_nt_d th_t: "Th_r_ _s
s_m_th_ng f_nd_m_nt_lly wr_ng w_th _ syst_m th_t
l__v_s _c__ntry w_th__t d_rct__n, _n st_gn_t__n,
w_th__t _ b_dg_t _nd p_t_nt__lly w_th__t th_
wh_r_w_th_l_t_s_ttl_ _ts d_bts."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131013-us-shutdown.html>

after more than ten days of stalemate in the us things have finally begun to start moving president barack obama and the republican speaker of the house of representatives john boehner sat down for talks on thursday about the impasse over the partial us government shutdown and the looming debt crisis their discussions didn't lead to any certain outcome but analysts are taking a positive note that talks are happening house majority leader eric cantor said the talks were "very useful" and "clarifying" hopes are that the two sides will agree on a temporary increase to the \$167 trillion us debt limit failure to do so by october 17 could have dire consequences for the global economy

a wall street journal / nbc news poll found 53 per cent of those surveyed blamed republicans for the government shutdown while 31 per cent blamed president obama observers from other countries are having trouble understanding what is going on in us politics the times of india wrote "what is chilling is that us politicians are willing to engage in a game of brinkmanship that is tantamount to detonating a nuclear device over their economy" a uae businessman commented that "there is something fundamentally wrong with a system that leaves a country without direction in stagnation without a budget and potentially without the wherewithal to settle its debts"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1310/131013-us-shutdown.html>

After more than ten days of stalemate in the U.S., things have finally begun to start moving. President Barack Obama and the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, John Boehner, sat down for talks on Thursday about the impasse over the partial U.S. government shutdown and the looming debt crisis. Their discussions didn't lead to any certain outcome, but analysts are taking a positive note that talks are happening. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor said the talks were "very useful" and "clarifying." Hopes are that the two sides will agree on a temporary increase to the \$16.7 trillion U.S. debt limit. Failure to do so by October 17 could have dire consequences for the global economy. A Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll found 53 percent of those surveyed blamed Republicans for the government shutdown, while 31 percent blamed President Obama. Observers from other countries are having trouble understanding what is going on in U.S. politics. The Times of India wrote: "What is chilling is that US politicians are willing to engage in a game of brinkmanship that is tantamount to detonating a nuclear device over their economy." A UAE businessman commented that: "There is something fundamentally wrong with a system that leaves a country without direction, in stagnation, without a budget and potentially without the wherewithal to settle its debts."

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about the partial government shutdown and the talks between the two parties. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. U.S. POLITICS: Make a poster about U.S. politics. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. SHUTDOWN: Write a magazine article about the partial U.S. shutdown. Include imaginary interviews with people who think the U.S. system of government is good and those who think it isn't.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to President Barack Obama. Ask him three questions about what's happening in U.S. politics. Give him three ideas on what to do to end the crisis. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F b F c F d T e T f T g F h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. stalemate / impasse | a. deadlock |
| 2. partial | b. limited |
| 3. clarifying | c. illuminating |
| 4. temporary | d. provisional |
| 5. dire | e. terrible |
| 6. blamed | f. accused |
| 7. chilling | g. frightening |
| 8. engage | h. take part in |
| 9. tantamount | i. equal to |
| 10. settle | j. pay |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. More than 10
2. John Boehner
3. Positively
4. House Majority Leader
5. October 17
6. 31
7. Understanding U.S. politics
8. Detonating a nuclear device over their economy
9. A UAE businessman
10. Pay its debts

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. b 2. c 3. d 4. b 5. a 6. a 7. d 8. c 9. d 10. b

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)