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Level 6

Volkswagen to recall 11 million cars

2nd October, 2015

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1510/151002-volkswagen.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/1510/151002-volkswagen.html>

The troubled German carmaker Volkswagen (VW) has announced it will recall around 11 million cars following the emissions tests scandal that has mired the company in controversy. Some industry analysts predict the recall could cost the auto manufacturer more than \$6.5 billion. Last week, VW admitted cheating in diesel emissions tests in the United States and Europe. It manipulated data to falsely show that VW cars were a lot more fuel-efficient than was really the case. The company is Europe's largest carmaker and employs over 750,000 people. It has lost more than a third of its market value on stock markets and has badly tarnished its reputation as being a leader in clean energy.

Chief executives at VW could face criminal charges over the scandal. Olaf Lies, a Volkswagen board member, told the BBC TV programme Newsnight that some staff acted criminally over emission tests. He said: "Those people who allowed this to happen, or who made the decision to install this software, acted criminally. They must take personal responsibility." He added: "We only found out about the problems in the last board meeting, shortly before the media did. I want to be quite open, so we need to find out why the board wasn't informed earlier about the problems when they were known about over a year ago in the United States."

Sources: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/09/29/uk-volkswagen-emissions-plan-idUKKCN0RTOP820150929>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-34397426>
<http://www.autocar.co.uk/car-news/industry/vw-board-member-some-staff-were-warned-about-cheat-year-ago>

WARM-UPS

1. VOLKSWAGEN: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Volkswagen. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

troubled / carmaker / emissions / analysts / predict / fuel-efficient / market value / criminal / board member / software / responsibility / media / informed / problems

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

3. CARS: How can these things be improved? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Problems	Solutions
Fuel efficiency		
Seats		
Safety		
Navigation		
Reliability		
Comfort		

4. FULL COMPENSATION: Students A **strongly** believe Volkswagen car owners with the cheating software should get all their money back; Students B **strongly** believe not. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. CAR TYPES: Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- SUV
- 2-seater mini-car
- family sedan
- people carrier
- sports convertible
- compact car
- Rolls Royce
- supercar

6. SCANDAL: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "scandal". 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/1510/151002-volkswagen.html>

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

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. The controversy is because of emissions tests. | T / F |
| b. The scandal could cost VW \$65 billion. | T / F |
| c. VW lost almost a third of its market value. | T / F |
| d. VW has damaged its green credentials. | T / F |
| e. Bosses at the company will not have to face criminal charges. | T / F |
| f. A VW board member said some staff acted criminally. | T / F |
| g. Many board members found out about the scandal after the media did. | T / F |
| h. People in the US knew about this until a year ago. | T / F |

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

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. announced | a. falsified |
| 2. mired | b. let |
| 3. admitted | c. behaved |
| 4. manipulated | d. entangled |
| 5. tarnished | e. understood |
| 6. face | f. confessed |
| 7. acted | g. made it known |
| 8. allowed | h. told |
| 9. informed | i. blackened |
| 10. known | j. come up against |

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. mired the company in | a. was really the case |
| 2. industry | b. before the media |
| 3. a lot more fuel-efficient than | c. of its market value |
| 4. employs over | d. member |
| 5. lost more than a third | e. criminal charges |
| 6. Chief executives at VW could face | f. analysts |
| 7. board | g. controversy |
| 8. They must take | h. informed earlier |
| 9. shortly | i. 750,000 people |
| 10. find out why the board wasn't | j. personal responsibility |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1510/151002-volkswagen.html>

The (1) _____ German carmaker Volkswagen (VW) has announced it will recall around 11 million cars (2) _____ the emissions tests scandal that has (3) _____ the company in controversy. Some industry analysts (4) _____ the recall could cost the auto manufacturer more than \$6.5 billion. Last week, VW admitted (5) _____ in diesel emissions tests in the United States and Europe. It manipulated data to (6) _____ show that VW cars were a lot more fuel-efficient than was really the case. The company is Europe's largest carmaker and (7) _____ over 750,000 people. It has lost more than a third of its market value on stock markets and has badly tarnished its (8) _____ as being a leader in clean energy.

predict
following
cheating
employs
mired
reputation
troubled
falsely

Chief executives at VW could (9) _____ criminal charges over the (10) _____. Olaf Lies, a Volkswagen board member, told the BBC TV programme Newsnight that some staff acted (11) _____ over emission tests. He said: "Those people who allowed this to happen, or who made the decision to (12) _____ this software, acted criminally. They must take (13) _____ responsibility." He added: "We only found out about the problems in the last (14) _____ meeting, shortly before the (15) _____ did. I want to be quite open, so we need to find out why the board wasn't (16) _____ earlier about the problems when they were known about over a year ago in the United States."

scandal
personal
face
media
install
informed
criminally
board

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1510/151002-volkswagen.html>

- 1) the emissions tests scandal that has mired the company _____
 - a. in controversy
 - b. on controversy
 - c. at controversy
 - d. as controversy
- 2) Last week, VW admitted cheating in diesel _____
 - a. emission's tests
 - b. emissions' tests
 - c. emissions tests
 - d. emission is tests
- 3) show that VW cars were a lot more fuel-efficient than _____
 - a. was reality the case
 - b. was really a case
 - c. was really the cases
 - d. was really the case
- 4) It has lost more than a third of its market value _____
 - a. on stock markets
 - b. on stocked markets
 - c. on stocks markets
 - d. on stock market
- 5) badly tarnished its reputation as being a leader _____
 - a. on clean energy
 - b. in clean energy
 - c. unclean energy
 - d. inkling energy
- 6) Chief executives at VW could face criminal charges _____
 - a. overs the scandal
 - b. over a scandal
 - c. over the scandal
 - d. overt the scandal
- 7) Those people who allowed this to happen, or who made the decision to install this _____
 - a. software, acted criminals
 - b. software, acted criminal
 - c. software, acted criminalise
 - d. software, acted criminally
- 8) We only found out about the problems in the _____
 - a. last board meeting
 - b. lasts board meeting
 - c. last board meet in
 - d. last boarding meeting
- 9) I want to be quite open, so we need to find out why the board wasn't _____
 - a. in formed earlier
 - b. in form dahlia
 - c. informed early
 - d. informed earlier
- 10) they were known about over a year _____ United States
 - a. ago as the
 - b. ago in the
 - c. ago at the
 - d. ago to the

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1510/151002-volkswagen.html>

The troubled German carmaker Volkswagen (VW) (1) _____ will recall around 11 million cars following the emissions tests scandal that has (2) _____ controversy. Some industry analysts predict the recall (3) _____ auto manufacturer more than \$6.5 billion. Last week, VW admitted cheating in diesel emissions tests in the United States and Europe. It manipulated (4) _____ show that VW cars (5) _____ fuel-efficient than was really the case. The company is Europe's largest carmaker and employs over 750,000 people. It has (6) _____ third of its market value on stock markets and has badly tarnished its reputation as being a leader in clean energy.

Chief executives at VW could (7) _____ over the scandal. Olaf Lies, a Volkswagen board member, told the BBC TV programme Newsnight that (8) _____ criminally over emission tests. He said: "Those people (9) _____ to happen, or who made the decision to (10) _____, acted criminally. They must take personal responsibility." He added: "We only found out about the problems in the last board meeting, (11) _____ media did. I want to be quite open, so we need to find out why the board (12) _____ about the problems when they were known about over a year ago in the United States."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1510/151002-volkswagen.html>

1. What does the article say the scandal has mired VW in?

2. How much could the scandal cost VW?

3. What did VW manipulate in the scandal?

4. How many people work for VW in Europe?

5. What did VW have the reputation of being a leader in?

6. What could VW chief executives face over this scandal?

7. How did a board member say people who installed software acted?

8. When did the board member find out about the scandal?

9. What does the board member want to be with people?

10. Where have the problems been known about for a year?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1510/151002-volkswagen.html>

1. What does the article say the scandal has mired VW in?
 - a) fortune
 - b) muck
 - c) controversy
 - d) debt
2. How much could the scandal cost VW?
 - a) \$6.5 billion
 - b) \$6,500,000
 - c) \$65,000,000
 - d) \$65 billion
3. What did VW manipulate in the scandal?
 - a) data
 - b) exhaust systems
 - c) chief executives
 - d) gasoline
4. How many people work for VW in Europe?
 - a) 75%
 - b) more than 750,000
 - c) three-quarters of a million
 - d) more than 7,500,000
5. What did VW have the reputation of being a leader in?
 - a) controversy
 - b) abbreviated company names
 - c) Formula 1
 - d) green energy
6. What could VW chief executives face over this scandal?
 - a) heads
 - b) criminal charges
 - c) fuel-efficiency testing
 - d) promotion
7. How did a board member say people who installed software acted?
 - a) criminally
 - b) skilfully
 - c) discreetly
 - d) honestly
8. When did the board member find out about the scandal?
 - a) a year before it erupted
 - b) 2014
 - c) at the last board meeting
 - d) after the media found out
9. What does the board member want to be with people?
 - a) anonymous
 - b) a whistle-blower
 - c) a hero
 - d) open
10. Where have the problems been known about for a year?
 - a) the USA
 - b) Porsche
 - c) on the factory floor
 - d) car showrooms

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1510/151002-volkswagen.html>

Role A – SUV (Sports Utility Vehicle)

You think an SUV is the best car to have nowadays. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their cars aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): 2-seater mini-car, sports convertible or compact car.

Role B – 2-seater mini-car

You think a 2-seater mini-car is the best car to have nowadays. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their cars aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): SUV, sports convertible or compact car.

Role C – Sports convertible

You think a sports convertible is the best car to have nowadays. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their cars aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): 2-seater mini-car, SUV or compact car.

Role D – Compact car

You think a compact car is the best car to have nowadays. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their cars aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): 2-seater mini-car, sports convertible or SUV.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1510/151002-volkswagen.html>

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

criminal	charge
-----------------	---------------

- 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">• following• predict• week• lot• largest• being	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• face• acted• personal• meeting• open• year
--	---

VOLKSWAGEN SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1510/151002-volkswagen.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Volkswagen 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.

VOLKSWAGEN DISCUSSION

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

- 1) What did you think when you read the headline?
- 2) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'emissions'?
- 3) What do you think about what you read?
- 4) What was your image of VW before this scandal and what is it now?
- 5) How would you feel if you had a VW car?
- 6) What do you know about the emissions tests scandal?
- 7) How will this scandal affect VW's future?
- 8) What does VW need to do to repair its reputation?
- 9) Should VW pay compensation to VW car owners?
- 10) How much do you trust big companies like VW?

Volkswagen to recall 11 million cars – 2nd October, 2015
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VOLKSWAGEN DISCUSSION

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

- 11) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- 12) What should happen to VW's executives?
- 13) Why do you think staff acted criminally over the tests?
- 14) What world company do you think has the cleanest image?
- 15) How did VW keep the cheating a secret for a year?
- 16) What car company do you like, and why?
- 17) Should VW pay for producing more emissions than they claimed?
- 18) What will VW be like in five years from now?
- 19) What advice would you give the boss of VW?
- 20) What questions would you like to ask VW's boss?

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/1510/151002-volkswagen.html>

The troubled German carmaker Volkswagen (VW) has (1) _____ it will recall around 11 million cars (2) _____ the emissions tests scandal that has mired the company in controversy. Some industry analysts (3) _____ the recall could cost the auto manufacturer more than \$6.5 billion. Last week, VW admitted cheating (4) _____ diesel emissions tests in the United States and Europe. It manipulated data to (5) _____ show that VW cars were a lot more fuel-efficient than was really the case. The company is Europe's largest carmaker and employs over 750,000 people. It has lost more than a third of its market value on stock markets and has (6) _____ tarnished its reputation as being a leader in clean energy.

Chief executives at VW could face criminal charges (7) _____ the scandal. Olaf Lies, a Volkswagen board member, told the BBC TV programme Newsnight that some staff (8) _____ criminally over emission tests. He said: "Those people who allowed this to happen, or who (9) _____ the decision to install this software, acted criminally. They must take personal responsibility." He added: "We only found out about the problems in the last (10) _____ meeting, shortly before the media did. I want to be quite (11) _____, so we need to find out why the board wasn't (12) _____ earlier about the problems when they were known about over a year ago in the United States."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) announcing | (b) announced | (c) announcement | (d) announce |
| 2. | (a) followed | (b) following | (c) follows | (d) followers |
| 3. | (a) prediction | (b) predictive | (c) predicts | (d) predict |
| 4. | (a) of | (b) in | (c) as | (d) to |
| 5. | (a) wrong | (b) incorrect | (c) false | (d) falsely |
| 6. | (a) bad | (b) badness | (c) badly | (d) baddie |
| 7. | (a) over | (b) between | (c) under | (d) through |
| 8. | (a) starred | (b) entertained | (c) acted | (d) executed |
| 9. | (a) rallied | (b) happened | (c) did | (d) made |
| 10. | (a) board | (b) bade | (c) bored | (d) bid |
| 11. | (a) open | (b) out | (c) oust | (d) over |
| 12. | (a) informed | (b) reformed | (c) conformed | (d) performed |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1510/151002-volkswagen.html>

Paragraph 1

1. ondencuan it will recall around 11 million cars
2. the nsisseomi tests scandal
3. mired the company in royvocnstre
4. industry satlnsya
5. fuel-tncefiife
6. badly tarnished its nutaripeto

Paragraph 2

7. face cianmlri charges
8. people who lwolaed this to happen
9. take personal lspstribyiioen
10. the last dabor meeting
11. shortly before the deaim did
12. wasn't rodnfime earlier about the problems

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1510/151002-volkswagen.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

()	criminally. They must take personal responsibility." He added: "We only found out about the problems in the last
()	board meeting, shortly before the media did. I want to be quite open, so we need to find
()	carmaker and employs over 750,000 people. It has lost more than a third of its market value on stock
()	tests scandal that has mired the company in controversy. Some industry analysts predict the recall could cost
()	the auto manufacturer more than \$6.5 billion. Last week, VW admitted cheating
()	markets and has badly tarnished its reputation as being a leader in clean energy.
()	Chief executives at VW could face criminal charges over the scandal. Olaf Lies, a Volkswagen board
()	member, told the BBC TV programme Newsnight that some staff acted criminally over emission tests. He said: "Those people
()	who allowed this to happen, or who made the decision to install this software, acted
()	show that VW cars were a lot more fuel-efficient than was really the case. The company is Europe's largest
()	known about over a year ago in the United States."
()	out why the board wasn't informed earlier about the problems when they were
()	in diesel emissions tests in the United States and Europe. It manipulated data to falsely
(1)	The troubled German carmaker Volkswagen (VW) has announced it will recall around 11 million cars following the emissions

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1510/151002-volkswagen.html>

1. that in has controversy mired the Scandal company .

2. manufacturer predict could auto Analysts recall the the cost .

3. efficient more were that fuel a VW Falsely - lot cars show .

4. lost has It value market its of third a than more .

5. energy being reputation in a as clean leader Its .

6. could Chief face executives criminal at charges VW .

7. over acted . Some emission criminally staff tests

8. allowed who people Those happen to this .

9. must They responsibility personal take .

10. why the board wasn't informed We need to find out .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1510/151002-volkswagen.html>

The *troubled* / *trouble* German carmaker Volkswagen (VW) has announced it will recall around 11 million cars *followed* / *following* the emissions tests scandal that has *mired* / *hired* the company in controversy. Some industry analysts predict the recall could cost the *auto* / *autos* manufacturer more than \$6.5 billion. Last week, VW admitted cheating *as* / *in* diesel emissions tests in the United States and Europe. It manipulated data *to* / *for* falsely show that VW cars were a lot more fuel-efficient than was *really* / *reality* the case. The company is Europe's largest carmaker and *employers* / *employs* over 750,000 people. It has lost more than a *thirdly* / *third* of its market value on stock markets and has badly tarnished its reputation *as* / *has* being a leader in clean energy.

Chief executives at VW could *head* / *face* criminal charges *over* / *under* the scandal. Olaf Lies, a Volkswagen *board* / *bored* member, told the BBC TV programme Newsnight that some staff acted *criminal* / *criminally* over emission tests. He said: "Those people who *allowed* / *allowing* this to happen, or who made the *deciding* / *decision* to install this software, acted criminally. They must take *personal* / *personally* responsibility." He added: "We only found out about the problems in the *last* / *lasts* board meeting, shortly before the media did. I want to be *quite* / *quiet* open, so we need to find out why the board wasn't informed earlier about the problems when they were *knowing* / *known* about over a year ago in the United States."

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/1510/151002-volkswagen.html>

Th_ tr__bl_d G_rm_n c_rm_k_r V_lksw_g_n (VW) h_s
_nn__nc_d _t w_ll r_c_ll _r__nd 11 m_ll__n c_rs
f_ll_w_ng th_ _m_ss__ns t_sts sc_nd_l th_t h_s m_r_d
th_ c_m_p_ny _n c_ntr_v_rsy. S_m_ _nd_stry _n_lysts
pr_d_ct th_ r_c_ll c__ld c_st th_ __t m_n_f_ct_r_r
m_r_ th_n \$6.5 b_ll__n. L_st w__k, VW _dm_tt_d
ch__t_ng _n d__s_l _m_ss__ns t_sts _n th_ _n_t_d
St_t_s _nd __r_p_. _t m_n_p_l_t_d d_t_ t_ f_ls_ly
sh_w th_t VW c_rs w_r_ _l_t m_r_ f__l-ff_c__nt th_n
w_s r__lly th_ c_s_. Th_ c_m_p_ny _s __r_p_'s l_rg_st
c_rm_k_r _nd _mpl_ys _v_r 750,000 p__pl_. _t h_s l_st
m_r_ th_n _ th_rd _f _ts m_rk_t v_l__ _n st_ck
m_rk_ts _nd h_s b_dly t_rn_sh_d _ts r_p_t_t__n _s
b__ng _l__d_r_n cl__n _n_rgy.

Ch__f _x_c_t_v_s _t VW c__ld f_c_ cr_m_n_l ch_rg_s
_v_r th_ sc_nd_l. _l_f L__s, _ V_lksw_g_n b__rd
m_mb_r, t_ld th_ BBC TV pr_gr_mm_ N_wsn_gh_t th_t
s_m_ st_ff _ct_d cr_m_n_lly _v_r _m_ss__n t_sts. H_
s__d: "Th_s p__pl_ wh_ _ll_w_d th_s t_ h_pp_n, _r
wh_ m_d_ th_ d_c_s__n t_ _nst_ll th_s s_ftw_r_, _ct_d
cr_m_n_lly. Th_y m_st t_k_ p_rs_n_l_r_sp_ns_b_l_ty."
H_ _dd_d: "W_ _nly f__nd __t _b__t th_ pr_bl_ms _n
th_ l_st b__rd m__t_ng, sh_rtl_y b_f_r_ th_ m_d__d_d.
_ w_nt t_ b_ q__t_ _p_n, s_ w_ n__d t_ f_nd __t why
th_ b__rd w_sn't _nf_rm_d __rl__r _b__t th_ pr_bl_ms
wh_n th_y w_r_ kn_wn _b__t _v_r _y__r_g_ _n th_
_n_t_d St_t_s."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1510/151002-volkswagen.html>

the troubled german carmaker volkswagen (vw) has announced it will recall around 11 million cars following the emissions tests scandal that has mired the company in controversy some industry analysts predict the recall could cost the auto manufacturer more than \$65 billion last week vw admitted cheating in diesel emissions tests in the united states and europe it manipulated data to falsely show that vw cars were a lot more fuel-efficient than was really the case the company is europe's largest carmaker and employs over 750000 people it has lost more than a third of its market value on stock markets and has badly tarnished its reputation as being a leader in clean energy

chief executives at vw could face criminal charges over the scandal olaf lies a volkswagen board member told the bbc tv programme newnight that some staff acted criminally over emission tests he said "those people who allowed this to happen or who made the decision to install this software acted criminally they must take personal responsibility" he added "we only found out about the problems in the last board meeting shortly before the media did i want to be quite open so we need to find out why the board wasn't informed earlier about the problems when they were known about over a year ago in the united states"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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The troubled German carmaker Volkswagen (VW) has announced it will recall around 11 million cars following the emission test scandal that has mired the company in controversy. Some industry analysts predict the recall could cost the auto manufacturer more than \$6.5 billion. Last week, VW admitted cheating in diesel emission tests in the United States and Europe. It manipulated data to falsely show that VW cars were a lot more fuel-efficient than was really the case. The company is Europe's largest carmaker and employs over 750,000 people. It has lost more than a third of its market value on stock markets and has badly tarnished its reputation as being a leader in clean energy. Chief executives at VW could face criminal charges over the scandal. Olaf Lies, a Volkswagen board member, told the BBC TV programme Newsnight that some staff acted criminally over emission tests. He said: "Those people who allowed this to happen, or whom I made the decision to install this software, acted criminally. They must take personal responsibility." He added: "We only found out about the problems in the last board meeting, shortly before the media did. I want to be quite open, so we need to find out why the board wasn't informed earlier about the problems when they were known about over a year ago in the United States."

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 Volkswagen. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. FUEL-EFFICIENT CARS: Make a poster about fuel-efficient cars. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. VOLKSWAGEN: Write a magazine article about the Volkswagen scandal. Include imaginary interviews with people who bought a VW and with the company's boss.

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 an auto expert. Ask him/her three questions about Volkswagen. Give him/her three ideas on what should happen to the company. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. announced | a. made it known |
| 2. mired | b. entangled |
| 3. admitted | c. confessed |
| 4. manipulated | d. falsified |
| 5. tarnished | e. blackened |
| 6. face | f. come up against |
| 7. acted | g. behaved |
| 8. allowed | h. let |
| 9. informed | i. told |
| 10. known | j. understood |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Controversy
2. \$6.5 billion
3. Data
4. Over 750,000
5. Clean energy
6. Criminal charges
7. Criminally
8. In the last board meeting
9. Open
10. The United States

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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