

Trump fires up North Korea nuclear tensions

12th August, 2017



U.S. President Donald Trump has given North Korea another warning over its plans to fire its weapons. The war of words between Mr Trump and North Korea's president Kim Jong-un is escalating. Countries in the region and around the world are worried that the war of words could become a real war.

Tensions increased greatly earlier this week when North Korea announced it had nuclear warheads small enough to fit inside its missiles. President Trump then warned: "North Korea best not make any more threats to the United States. They will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen." North Korea responded by announcing it would fire four missiles off the coast of the US territory of Guam.

North Korea said President Trump's words were "nonsense". Regardless, Mr Trump issued another warning to the North Koreans yesterday. He said his "fire and fury" statement "wasn't tough enough" and that North Korea should "be very, very nervous". He also said China could do "a whole lot more" to reduce tensions. The Arms Control Association in Washington DC said Mr Trump should stop his verbal attacks on North Korea to avoid a military conflict on the Korean Peninsula. It said: "Recent [talk] from Trump is a dangerous and ineffective strategy to halt North Korea's nuclear development and could trigger a military conflict that would not be in the U.S. interest."

Sources: bbc.com / time.com / koreatimes.co.kr

Writing

How dangerous is the North Korea situation? Discuss how it can be resolved.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

warning / plans / weapons / war of words / tensions / nuclear / missiles / territory / nonsense / fire / fury / nervous / verbal attacks / military / conflict / strategy

True / False

- There is an escalation in the war of words over North Korea. T / F
- The article said North Korea announced it had 100 nuclear warheads. T / F
- Kim Jong-un said he would attack with fire and fury. T / F
- North Korea fired several missiles off the coast of Guam. T / F
- North Korea said President Trump was talking nonsense. T / F
- North Korea said it was nervous about Donald Trump's words. T / F
- An arms control association urged Mr Trump to stop his verbal attacks. T / F
- The arms control association said war would not be in the USA's interest. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. warning | a. keep away from |
| 2. escalating | b. considerably |
| 3. region | c. lessen |
| 4. greatly | d. increasing |
| 5. fury | e. war |
| 6. nonsense | f. anger |
| 7. tough | g. caution |
| 8. reduce | h. hard |
| 9. avoid | i. rubbish |
| 10. conflict | j. area |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think of Donald Trump's words?
- How dangerous is this situation?
- Why is North Korea developing its missile programme?
- How worried are you the war of words could become a real war?
- What do you think 'fire and fury' means?
- What would happen in direct talks between Trump and Kim Jong-un?
- What advice do you have for Kim Jong-un?
- What advice do you have for Donald Trump?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Donald Trump has given North Korea | a. the Korean Peninsula |
| 2. Tensions increased | b. the U.S. interest |
| 3. nuclear | c. US territory of Guam |
| 4. like the world has never | d. strategy |
| 5. off the coast of the | e. warheads |
| 6. do "a whole lot more" to | f. another warning |
| 7. Mr Trump should stop his verbal | g. reduce tensions |
| 8. avoid a military conflict on | h. seen |
| 9. a dangerous and ineffective | i. attacks on North Korea |
| 10. military conflict that would not be in | j. greatly earlier this week |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Do you also think Mr Trump's words are 'nonsense'?
- What words could be tougher than 'fire and fury'?
- What can China do to help the situation?
- What would happen in a war between North Korea and the USA?
- What will this situation be like next year?
- What questions would you like to ask Kim Jong-un?
- What questions would you like to ask Donald Trump?

Spelling

- plans to fire its opweasn
- Countries in the gnrioe
- fit inside its silmsesi
- make any more etrhast
- off the otacs
- the US royertrit of Guam
- President Trump's words were neennsso
- North Korea should be very, very rvneosu
- reduce stenoisn
- Trump should stop his lbvrea attacks
- military ocnftlic
- a dangerous and ineffective sagerytt

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. f
6. i	7. h	8. c	9. a	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Donald Trump

You think Donald Trump is the best person to avoid military conflict. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their people. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Kim Jong-un, China's leader or South Korea's leader.

Role B – Kim Jong-un

You think Kim Jong-un is the best person to avoid military conflict. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their people. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Donald Trump, China's leader or South Korea's leader.

Role C – China's Leader

You think China's leader is the best person to avoid military conflict. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their people. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Kim Jong-un, Donald Trump or South Korea's leader.

Role D – South Korea's Leader

You think South Korea's leader is the best person to avoid military conflict. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their people. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Kim Jong-un, China's leader or Donald Trump.

Speaking – Military conflict

Rank these with your partner. Put the best person to avoid military conflict in North Korea. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| • UN Secretary-General | • Japanese leader |
| • Donald Trump | • Russia's leader |
| • China's leader | • South Korea's leader |
| • Kim Jong-un | • Other _____ |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.