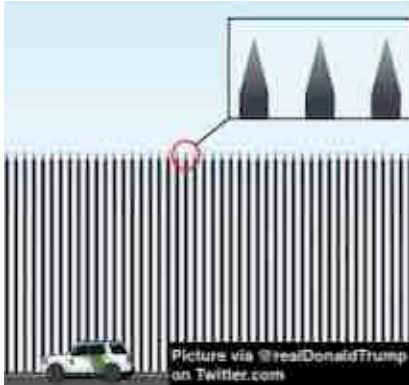


U.S. government shutdown over border wall

25th December, 2018



The U.S. government will partially shut down over the Christmas period due to a lack of agreement over funding for the proposed wall along the Mexico border. Politicians say it is likely that the federal closures will continue until after

Christmas. It is the third government shutdown of the year. U.S. President Donald Trump has promised a "very long" government shutdown if Democrats do not fund the border wall. Mr Trump wants the Senate to authorize \$5.7 billion to finance the wall, which was one of the President's major election promises in 2016. He said: "I hope we don't, but we are totally prepared for a very long shutdown." He tweeted: "Shutdown today if Democrats do not vote for border security."

The shutdown has affected Mr Trump's holiday plans. The White House press secretary Sarah Sanders confirmed this in a statement. She said: "Due to the shutdown, President Trump will remain in Washington, D.C. and the First Lady will return from Florida so they can spend Christmas together." The shutdown means there is gridlock in large parts of the federal government's operations. Funding has expired for departments that operate national parks, homeland security, law enforcement, tax collection and transportation. Around 400,000 federal workers have to stay at home without pay until a deal is reached. Many government services have been halted until the Senate reaches a deal.

Sources: washingtonpost.com / bbc.com / cnn.com

Writing

Fences and walls make good neighbors. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

government / shut down / lack / agreement / federal / border wall / finance / security / holiday plans / press secretary / Washington / gridlock / national parks / deal / pay

True / False

- a) The U.S. government will totally shut down over Christmas. T / F
- b) This is the first time this year that the U.S. government has shut down. T / F
- c) Donald Trump wants \$5.7 million to build a border wall. T / F
- d) Donald Trump said he is prepared for a very long shutdown. T / F
- e) The shutdown means Donald Trump won't be in Florida for Xmas. T / F
- f) The article says Mr and Mrs Trump will spend Christmas together. T / F
- g) There is currently no federal funding for national parks. T / F
- h) Over half-a-million federal workers are at home without pay. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 1. partially | a. impacted |
| 2. lack | b. shutdown |
| 3. closure | c. functions |
| 4. finance | d. ready |
| 5. prepared | e. agreement |
| 6. affected | f. fund |
| 7. operations | g. partly |
| 8. expired | h. stopped |
| 9. halted | i. run out |
| 10. deal | j. absence |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of your government?
- b) What are the worst things about working for the government?
- c) What do you think of a government shutting down?
- d) What are your country's borders like?
- e) What happens if a government shuts down?
- f) What do you think of the border wall with Mexico?
- g) Do politicians always keep their promises?
- h) How worried are you about the security of your country?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. shut down over | a. to finance the wall |
| 2. due to a lack | b. Christmas together |
| 3. authorize \$5.7 billion | c. security |
| 4. one of the President's major | d. enforcement |
| 5. border | e. halted |
| 6. Sanders confirmed this in | f. of agreement |
| 7. they can spend | g. collection |
| 8. law | h. election promises |
| 9. tax | i. a statement |
| 10. Many government services have been | j. the Christmas period |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What are the best things about working for the government?
- What good things do governments do?
- What will President Trump do in the White House over Christmas?
- What happens if government services are in gridlock?
- Do you agree with the saying: "Fences make good neighbors"?
- Who should pay for the building of the Mexico wall?
- What questions would you like to ask President Trump?

Spelling

- partially shut down
- due to a lack of agreement
- the proposed wall
- federal closures
- authorize \$5.7 billion to finance the wall
- major election promises
- affected Mr Trump's holiday plans
- The White House press secretary
- Funding has expired
- law enforcement
- tax collection
- government services have been halted

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Law Enforcement

You think law enforcement is the worst thing to shut down. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things shutting down aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these shutting down (and why): transport, the Internet or healthcare.

Role B – Transport

You think transport is the worst thing to shut down. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things shutting down aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these shutting down (and why): law enforcement, the Internet or healthcare.

Role C – The Internet

You think the Internet is the worst thing to shut down. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things shutting down aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these shutting down (and why): transport, law enforcement or healthcare.

Role D – Healthcare

You think healthcare is the worst thing to shut down. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things shutting down aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these shutting down (and why): transport, the Internet or law enforcement.

Speaking – Shutdown

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst things to shut down at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| • Transport | • Law enforcement |
| • The Internet | • Health |
| • Electricity | • Schools |
| • Social security | • Border security |

Answers – True False

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