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EU and US free trade talks launched

15th February, 2013

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1302/130215-free_trade.html

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THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130215-free_trade.html

The European Union and the USA will soon begin formal talks on a free trade agreement, paving the way for the biggest trade deal in history. The two trading blocs currently account for around half the world's economic output. European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said discussions could start by the end of June. The talks will involve rounds of negotiations on the many sticking points between the two economic powerhouses. Europe is likely to want greater access to many key American industries such as telecommunications and transport. The USA forbids foreign ownership of these. The USA will want more involvement in European agriculture, which may not please EU farmers.

EU-US trade is presently worth around €455 billion / \$613 billion a year. Estimates are that a trade deal could boost their annual GDP by 0.5%. Mr Barroso said: "A future deal between the world's two most important economic powers will be a game-changer, giving a strong boost to our economies on both sides of the Atlantic." He added: "These negotiations will set a standard...for the development of global trade rules." US President Barack Obama was equally enthusiastic about a deal, which he spoke about in his State of the Union address to the US Congress on Tuesday. He said an agreement would, "boost American exports, support American jobs and level the playing field in the growing markets of Asia".

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-21439945>
http://www.voanews.com/info/terms_of_use_privacy_policy/1363.html

WARM-UPS

1. FREE TRADE: Walk around the class and talk to other students about free trade. 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.

European Union / free trade / economic output / negotiations / telecommunications / boost / economic powers / a game-changer / enthusiastic / exports / growing markets

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

3. STICKING POINTS: What will be difficult when the EU and US negotiate? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

| | Problems | Solutions |
|------------------|----------|-----------|
| safety standards | | |
| salaries | | |
| agriculture | | |
| dollar-euro | | |
| CO2 emissions | | |
| tax | | |

4. US-EU: Students A **strongly** believe the USA and EU will always be the most important economies; Students B **strongly** believe China and India will overtake them. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. ECONOMY: What's most important? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most important at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- jobs
- low income tax
- low inflation
- priority on technology
- low-interest loans
- minimum bureaucracy
- investment in infrastructure
- no sales tax

6. AGREEMENT: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'agreement'. 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/1302/130215-free_trade.html

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

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. The USA and EU have almost finished talks about a free trade deal. | T / F |
| b. A US-EU trade deal would be the biggest the world has ever seen. | T / F |
| c. There are very few things that might cause problems with the talks. | T / F |
| d. European farmers will welcome any agreement with the Americans. | T / F |
| e. A free trade deal could increase US-EU GDP by half a per cent. | T / F |
| f. The EU chief said a deal would set an example for all global trade. | T / F |
| g. US President Barack Obama isn't so sure about if a deal will be good. | T / F |
| h. Obama said it would be better to have a deal with Asia. | T / F |

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

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. paving the way | a. giants |
| 2. account for | b. talks |
| 3. powerhouses | c. increase |
| 4. forbids | d. preparing |
| 5. involvement | e. valued at |
| 6. worth | f. mushrooming |
| 7. boost | g. prohibits |
| 8. negotiations | h. guidelines |
| 9. standard | i. make up |
| 10. growing | j. participation |

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. begin formal | a. American exports |
| 2. paving the | b. blocs |
| 3. two trading | c. standard |
| 4. rounds | d. way |
| 5. sticking | e. field |
| 6. presently worth | f. enthusiastic |
| 7. set a | g. talks |
| 8. equally | h. around €455 billion |
| 9. boost | i. of negotiations |
| 10. level the playing | j. points |

GAP FILL

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130215-free_trade.html

The European Union and the USA will soon begin (1) _____ talks on a free trade agreement, paving the way for the biggest trade (2) _____ in history. The two trading (3) _____ currently account for around half the world's economic (4) _____. European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said discussions could start by the end of June. The talks will involve (5) _____ of negotiations on the many sticking points between the two economic powerhouses. Europe is likely to want greater (6) _____ to many key American industries such as telecommunications and transport. The USA (7) _____ foreign ownership of these. The USA will want more involvement in European agriculture, which may not (8) _____ EU farmers.

rounds

forbids

blocs

access

formal

please

deal

output

EU-US trade is presently (9) _____ around €455 billion / \$613 billion a year. Estimates are that a trade deal could (10) _____ their annual (11) _____ by 0.5%. Mr Barroso said: "A future deal between the world's two most important economic (12) _____ will be a game-changer, giving a strong boost to our economies on both sides of the Atlantic." He added: "These (13) _____ will set a standard...for the development of global trade rules." US President Barack Obama was (14) _____ enthusiastic about a deal, which he spoke about in his State of the Union (15) _____ to the US Congress on Tuesday. He said an agreement would, "boost American exports, support American jobs and level the (16) _____ field in the growing markets of Asia".

equally

powers

boost

address

negotiations

worth

playing

GDP

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LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130215-free_trade.html

- 1) begin formal talks on a _____
 - a. free trading agreement
 - b. free trade agreeing
 - c. free trade agreement
 - d. free trade agreements
- 2) _____ for the biggest trade deal in history
 - a. pave the way
 - b. paves the way
 - c. paving the way
 - d. paved the way
- 3) The talks will involve rounds of negotiations on _____
 - a. the many sticker points
 - b. the many stuck points
 - c. the many sticking point
 - d. the many sticking points
- 4) Europe is likely to want greater access _____ American industries
 - a. as many key
 - b. of many key
 - c. to many key
 - d. to many keys
- 5) The USA will want _____ European agriculture
 - a. most involvement in
 - b. more involvement on
 - c. many involvement in
 - d. more involvement in
- 6) Estimates are that a trade deal could boost their _____
 - a. annual GDP by 0.5%
 - b. annual GDP from 0.5%
 - c. annual GDP at 0.5%
 - d. annual GDP up 0.5%
- 7) giving _____ our economies on both sides of the Atlantic
 - a. a strong boost to
 - b. a strength boost to
 - c. the strong boost to
 - d. a strong booster to
- 8) set a standard...for the development _____
 - a. of global trade rules
 - b. by global traders rules
 - c. of global trade rules
 - d. of global trade rule
- 9) US President Barack Obama was equally _____
 - a. unenthusiastic about a deal
 - b. enthusiastic about a deal
 - c. enthusiastically about a deal
 - d. enthusiasm about a deal
- 10) support American jobs and _____
 - a. level the playing field
 - b. flat the playing field
 - c. uniform the playing field
 - d. wreck the playing field

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LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130215-free_trade.html

The European Union and the USA (1) _____ talks on a free trade agreement, paving the way for the biggest trade deal in history. The two trading (2) _____ around half the world's economic output. European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said discussions (3) _____ of June. The talks will involve rounds of negotiations on the (4) _____ between the two economic powerhouses. Europe is likely (5) _____ to many key American industries such as telecommunications and transport. The USA forbids foreign ownership of these. The USA will want more involvement in European agriculture, (6) _____ farmers.

EU-US trade is presently worth around €455 billion / \$613 billion a year. Estimates are that a trade (7) _____ annual GDP by 0.5%. Mr Barroso said: "A future deal between the world's two most important economic powers (8) _____, giving a strong boost to our economies on both sides of the Atlantic." He added: "These negotiations (9) _____ the development of global trade rules." US President Barack Obama was (10) _____ a deal, which he spoke about in his State of the Union address to the US Congress on Tuesday. He said an (11) _____ American exports, support American jobs and (12) _____ in the growing markets of Asia".

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130215-free_trade.html

1. When will the trade talks begin?

2. What could the talks pave the way for?

3. How much of the world's economic output is from the EU and US?

4. What two U.S. industries will the Europeans want access to?

5. What would make EU farmers unhappy?

6. By how much could EU/US GDP increase by?

7. Who said a deal could be a game-changer?

8. What could the negotiations set a standard for?

9. How did Barack Obama feel about a deal?

10. What did Barack Obama say an agreement would support?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130215-free_trade.html

1. When will talks between the US and EU begin?
 - a) in a year or two
 - b) soon
 - c) once differences have been resolved
 - d) not for a while
2. How big could the trade deal be?
 - a) one of the biggest
 - b) average-to-large
 - c) the biggest in history
 - d) big
3. What will the negotiations try to resolve?
 - a) visa problems
 - b) trade tariffs
 - c) quality control
 - d) sticking points
4. Why can't EU countries own US transport companies?
 - a) EU law forbids it
 - b) it is forbidden under US law
 - c) international law says it's not possible
 - d) US shareholders would disagree
5. What might make EU farmers unhappy?
 - a) American involvement in agriculture
 - b) American competition
 - c) subsidies
 - d) genetically-modified food
6. By how much could EU-US GDP increase?
 - a) 0.5%
 - b) 2.5%
 - c) 5%
 - d) 50%
7. What could the deal give to the two economies?
 - a) confidence
 - b) better investment opportunities
 - c) new markets
 - d) a big lift
8. What did Mr Barroso say the negotiations might set?
 - a) the clock back
 - b) the table
 - c) a standard for global trade rules
 - d) the right tone for trading
9. How did Barack Obama feel about the talks?
 - a) he expressed no opinion
 - b) he was pessimistic
 - c) he wasn't interested
 - d) he was enthusiastic
10. What could be level because of the deal?
 - a) the American recovery
 - b) the playing field
 - c) American jobs
 - d) the EU-US trade balance

ROLE PLAY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130215-free_trade.html

Role A – Barack Obama

You think a free trade agreement with the European Union will be a great help for the whole world. Tell the others three reasons why. You think it would be better for America than trade deals with China, Russia or India. You are sure the deal will bring many jobs to the USA.

Role B – Jose Manuel Barroso

You think a trade agreement will be good for the EU. Tell the others three reasons why. You don't think it will help the world. Tell the others three reasons why. You believe a deal with China would benefit the EU more than a deal with the USA. Tell Barack Obama this.

Role C – China trade minister

You think a trade deal between the USA and EU will be a disaster. Tell the others three reasons why. You think the EU should sign a deal with China instead. The EU and China would be the best trading bloc in the world. You never want a deal with the USA. Tell Obama why.

Role D – EU/US worker

You think the trade talks are a total waste of time. Tell the others three reasons why. The talks will only guarantee the large salaries of a large number of negotiators and lawyers. A free trade deal will not make the lives of ordinary people better. You would rather create a deal with China.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130215-free_trade.html

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

| free | trade |
|------|-------|
| | |

- 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">• soon• history• end• points• access• please | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• worth• annual• future• both• address• playing |
|---|--|

FREE TRADE SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130215-free_trade.html

Write five GOOD questions about free trade 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.

FREE TRADE 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 term 'free trade'?
- c) Do you think a free trade deal between the US and EU is good?
- d) What are the benefits of a free trade agreement?
- e) What free trade agreements do you know of that work well?
- f) What do American and European negotiators need to think about?
- g) What do you think the sticking points might be?
- h) What would European ownership of US telecommunications change?
- i) Why might EU farmers not be pleased with a free trade deal?
- j) Who will benefit most from the agreement?

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FREE TRADE DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) What difference would a 0.5% increase in GDP make?
- c) Is the deal something to make other countries worry?
- d) Why has such an agreement never been signed before?
- e) What message would it send if no agreement could be reached?
- f) Why is a free trade deal important?
- g) Would it be good if the whole world signed a free trade agreement?
- h) What's the best thing to help world trade?
- i) Do you think the deal will boost exports and create jobs?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the negotiators?

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. _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130215-free_trade.html

The European Union and the USA will soon begin (1) ____ talks on a free trade agreement, paving the way for the biggest trade deal in history. The two trading (2) ____ currently (3) ____ for around half the world's economic output. European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said discussions could start by the end of June. The talks will involve rounds of negotiations on the many (4) ____ points between the two economic powerhouses. Europe is likely to want greater access to many key American industries such as telecommunications and transport. The USA (5) ____ foreign ownership of these. The USA will want more (6) ____ in European agriculture, which may not please EU farmers.

EU-US trade is presently worth around €455 billion / \$613 billion a year. Estimates are that a trade deal could (7) ____ their annual GDP by 0.5%. Mr Barroso said: "A future deal between the world's two most important economic powers will be a (8) ____ -changer, giving a strong boost to our economies on both sides of the Atlantic." He added: "These negotiations will (9) ____ a standard...for the development of global trade rules." US President Barack Obama was (10) ____ enthusiastic about a deal, which he spoke about in his State of the Union (11) ____ to the US Congress on Tuesday. He said an agreement would, "boost American exports, support American jobs and level the playing (12) ____ in the growing markets of Asia".

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) formality | (b) formalise | (c) formal | (d) formed |
| 2. | (a) blocs | (b) pacts | (c) axis | (d) cliques |
| 3. | (a) account | (b) bank | (c) savings | (d) consider |
| 4. | (a) sticking | (b) glued | (c) adhesive | (d) cementing |
| 5. | (a) bids | (b) forbids | (c) inhibits | (d) remits |
| 6. | (a) involves | (b) involved | (c) involving | (d) involvement |
| 7. | (a) boast | (b) bust | (c) boost | (d) burst |
| 8. | (a) play | (b) pastime | (c) match | (d) game |
| 9. | (a) set | (b) let | (c) met | (d) bet |
| 10. | (a) equally | (b) equation | (c) equated | (d) equality |
| 11. | (a) mail | (b) address | (c) sermon | (d) label |
| 12. | (a) pitch | (b) table | (c) field | (d) imbalance |

SPELLING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130215-free_trade.html

Paragraph 1

1. two trading osbcl
2. involve rounds of ttsoieinagon
3. greater sccsae
4. key American usnideitsr
5. The USA will want more tioneemvlnv
6. European riuucaterlg

Paragraph 2

7. presently orthw around €455 billion
8. tssaeemti are that...
9. he emenedltpov of global trade
10. equally tshtuicsenai
11. State of the Union rdsadse
12. American xetpsro

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130215-free_trade.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () the world's economic output. European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said discussions could start
- () ownership of these. The USA will want more involvement in European agriculture, which may not please EU farmers.
- () rules." US President Barack Obama was equally enthusiastic about a deal, which he spoke
- () points between the two economic powerhouses. Europe is likely to want greater access to many
- () the way for the biggest trade deal in history. The two trading blocs currently account for around half
- () key American industries such as telecommunications and transport. The USA forbids foreign
- () about in his State of the Union address to the US Congress on Tuesday. He said an agreement would,
- (**1**) The European Union and the USA will soon begin formal talks on a free trade agreement, paving
- () sides of the Atlantic." He added: "These negotiations will set a standard...for the development of global trade
- () "boost American exports, support American jobs and level the playing field in the growing markets of Asia".
- () EU-US trade is presently worth around €455 billion / \$613 billion a year. Estimates are that a trade deal could
- () powers will be a game-changer, giving a strong boost to our economies on both
- () by the end of June. The talks will involve rounds of negotiations on the many sticking
- () boost their annual GDP by 0.5%. Mr Barroso said: "A future deal between the world's two most important economic

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130215-free_trade.html

1. agreement on a Begin free formal trade talks.

2. in history paving the way for the biggest trade deal.

3. negotiations of rounds involve will talks The.

4. access greater want to likely is Europe.

5. these of ownership foreign forbids USA The.

6. - EU billion €455 around worth presently is trade US.

7. annual deal GDP could boost A their trade.

8. strong our both A to on boost economies sides.

9. for of standard development trade a the global Set.

10. growing markets of Asia Level the playing field in the.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130215-free_trade.html

The European Union and the USA will soon begin *formality / formal* talks on a free trade agreement, *paving / pavement* the way for the biggest trade deal in history. The two trading *blocks / blocs* currently *account / accounting* for around half the world's economic output. European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said discussions could start *until / by* the end of June. The talks will involve *squares / rounds* of negotiations on the many sticking points between the two *economically / economic* powerhouses. Europe is likely to want greater access to many *key / lock* American industries such as telecommunications and transport. The USA *forgets / forbids* foreign ownership of these. The USA will want more involvement in European agriculture, which may not *please / thank* EU farmers.

EU-US trade is presently *worth / value* around €455 billion / \$613 billion a year. *Estimates / Estimating* are that a trade deal could boost their annual *GDP / GOP* by 0.5%. Mr Barroso said: "A future deal between the world's two most important economic powers will be a *match-changer / game-changer*, giving a strong boost to our economies on *bother / both* sides of the Atlantic." He added: "These negotiations will *let / set* a standard...for the development of global trade rules." US President Barack Obama was *equated / equally* enthusiastic about a deal, which he spoke about in his State of the Union *address / mail* to the US Congress on Tuesday. He said an agreement would, "boost American exports, support American jobs and *destroy / level* the playing *field / pitch* in the growing markets of Asia".

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/1302/130215-free_trade.html

Th_ _ _ r_p_ _ n _ n_ _ n _ nd th_ _ S_ w_ ll s_ _ n b_ g_ n
f_ r_m_ l_ t_ l_ k_ s _ n _ fr_ _ tr_ d_ _ gr_ _ m_ nt, p_ v_ ng th_
w_ y_ f_ r_ th_ b_ gg_ st_ tr_ d_ d_ l_ _ n h_ st_ ry. Th_ tw_
tr_ d_ ng bl_ cs c_ rr_ ntly _ cc_ _ nt f_ r_ _ r_ _ nd h_ lf th_
w_ rld's _ c_ n_ m_ c _ _ tp_ t. _ _ r_ p_ _ n C_ mm_ ss_ _ n
Pr_ s_ d_ nt J_ s_ M_ n_ _ l B_ rr_ s_ s_ _ d d_ sc_ ss_ _ ns c_ _ ld
st_ rt by th_ _ nd_ f_ J_ n_ . Th_ t_ l_ k_ s w_ ll _ nv_ lv_ r_ _ nds
_ f_ n_ g_ t_ _ t_ _ ns _ n th_ m_ ny st_ ck_ ng p_ _ nts b_ tw_ _ n
th_ tw_ _ c_ n_ m_ c p_ w_ rh_ _ s_ s. _ _ r_ p_ _ s l_ k_ ly t_
w_ nt gr_ _ t_ r_ _ cc_ ss t_ m_ ny k_ y_ _ m_ r_ c_ n _ nd str_ _ s
s_ ch_ _ s t_ l_ c_ mm_ n_ c_ t_ _ ns _ nd tr_ nsp_ rt. Th_ _ S_
f_ rb_ ds f_ r_ _ gn _ wn_ rsh_ p_ _ f_ th_ s_ . Th_ _ S_ w_ ll w_ nt
m_ r_ _ nv_ lv_ m_ nt _ n _ _ r_ p_ _ n _ gr_ c_ lt_ r_ , wh_ ch
m_ y_ n_ t pl_ _ s_ _ _ f_ rm_ rs.

_ _ - S tr_ d_ _ s pr_ s_ ntly w_ rth _ r_ _ nd €455 b_ ll_ _ n /
\$613 b_ ll_ _ n _ y_ _ r. _ st_ m_ t_ s _ r_ th_ t_ _ tr_ d_ d_ l_
c_ _ ld b_ _ st th_ _ r_ _ nn_ _ l GDP by 0.5%. Mr B_ rr_ s_ s_ _ d:
" _ f_ t_ r_ d_ _ l b_ tw_ _ n th_ w_ rld's tw_ m_ st
_ mp_ rt_ nt _ c_ n_ m_ c p_ w_ rs w_ ll b_ _ g_ m_ -ch_ ng_ r,
g_ v_ ng _ str_ ng b_ _ st t_ _ _ r_ c_ n_ m_ _ s _ n b_ th_ s_ d_ s
_ f_ th_ _ tl_ nt_ c." H_ _ dd_ d: "Th_ s_ _ n_ g_ t_ _ t_ _ ns w_ ll
s_ t_ _ st_ nd_ rd...f_ r_ th_ d_ v_ l_ pm_ nt _ f_ gl_ b_ l_ tr_ d_ _
r_ l_ s." _ S Pr_ s_ d_ nt B_ r_ ck _ b_ m_ w_ s _ q_ _ lly
_ nth_ s_ _ st_ c_ b_ _ t_ _ d_ l, wh_ ch h_ sp_ k_ _ b_ _ t_ _ n
h_ s St_ t_ _ f_ th_ _ n_ _ n_ ddr_ ss t_ th_ _ S C_ ngr_ ss _ n
T_ _ sd_ y. H_ _ s_ _ d _ n _ gr_ _ m_ nt w_ _ ld, "b_ _ st
_ m_ r_ c_ n _ xp_ rts, s_ pp_ rt _ m_ r_ c_ n j_ bs _ nd l_ v_ l
th_ pl_ y_ ng f_ _ ld _ n th_ gr_ w_ ng m_ rk_ ts _ f_ s_ _ _".

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130215-free_trade.html

the european union and the usa will soon begin formal talks on a free trade agreement paving the way for the biggest trade deal in history the two trading blocs currently account for around half the world's economic output european commission president jose manuel barroso said discussions could start by the end of june the talks will involve rounds of negotiations on the many sticking points between the two economic powerhouses europe is likely to want greater access to many key american industries such as telecommunications and transport the usa forbids foreign ownership of these the usa will want more involvement in european agriculture which may not please eu farmers

eu-us trade is presently worth around €455 billion / \$613 billion a year estimates are that a trade deal could boost their annual gdp by 05% mr barroso said "a future deal between the world's two most important economic powers will be a game-changer giving a strong boost to our economies on both sides of the atlantic" he added "these negotiations will set a standard...for the development of global trade rules" us president barack obama was equally enthusiastic about a deal which he spoke about in his state of the union address to the us congress on tuesday he said an agreement would "boost american exports support american jobs and level the playing field in the growing markets of asia"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130215-free_trade.html

The European Union and the USA will soon begin formal talks on a free trade agreement, paving the way for the biggest trade deal in history. The two trading blocs currently account for around half the world's economic output. European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said discussions could start by the end of June. The talks will involve rounds of negotiations on the many sticking points between the two economic powerhouses. Europe is likely to want greater access to many key American industries such as telecommunications and transport. The USA forbids foreign ownership of these. The USA will want more involvement in European agriculture, which may not please EU farmers. EU-US trade is presently worth around €455 billion/\$613 billion a year. Estimates are that a trade deal could boost their annual GDP by 0.5%. Mr Barroso said: "A future deal between the world's two most important economic powers will be a game-changer, giving a strong boost to our economies on both sides of the Atlantic." He added: "These negotiations will set a standard... for the development of global trade rules." US President Barack Obama was equally enthusiastic about a deal, which he spoke about in his State of the Union address to the US Congress on Tuesday. He said an agreement would, "boost American exports, support American jobs and level the playing field in the growing market of Asia".

FREE WRITING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130215-free_trade.html

Write about **free trade** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

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

3. FREE TRADE: Make a poster about free trade. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. EU-US: Write a magazine article about a free trade deal between America and Europe. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

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 European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso or US President Barack Obama. Ask him three questions about the free trade talks. Give him three pieces of advice on what to talk about. 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 T c F d F e T f T g F h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. paving the way | a. preparing |
| 2. account for | b. make up |
| 3. powerhouses | c. giants |
| 4. forbids | d. prohibits |
| 5. involvement | e. participation |
| 6. worth | f. valued at |
| 7. boost | g. increase |
| 8. negotiations | h. talks |
| 9. standard | i. quality |
| 10. growing | j. mushrooming |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Soon
2. The biggest trade deal in history
3. Around half
4. Telecommunications and transport
5. American involvement in European agriculture
6. By 0.5%
7. Jose Manuel Barroso
8. The development of global trade rules
9. He was enthusiastic
10. American jobs

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 ;-)