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Level 3

Syria says it will destroy chemical weapons

21st September, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130921-chemical-weapons.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130921-chemical-weapons.html>

The president of Syria, Bashar al-Assad, has said he will follow a plan to destroy his country's chemical weapons. He told reporters from Fox News that it might take one year to do this. Mr Assad said: "I think it is a very complicated operation technically, and it needs a lot of money. Some estimates say about \$1 billion." He added: "It is very bad for the environment. If the American government is ready to pay this money and take the responsibility of bringing toxic materials to the United States, why don't they do it?" America wants Syria to agree to a United Nations resolution that includes American military action if Syria does not keep its promise. However, Russia said no to this.

President Assad again told the world that rebels carried out a chemical weapons attack in Damascus last month. America says it has information that shows Syria's army used the sarin gas, not the rebels. Mr Assad said America was wrong. Russia says there is not enough proof that Syria's army was responsible. Russia's foreign minister said he has evidence that showed the rebels were part of the sarin attack. Mr Assad explained how the rebels could have used the gas. He said: "Sarin gas is called kitchen gas. You know why? Because anybody can make sarin in his house. Any rebel can make sarin." He also said Syria was in "a new kind of war" because fighters from more than 80 countries had joined the rebels.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-24155674>
<http://news.sky.com/story/1143623/assad-to-destroy-chemical-weapons-in-a-year>
<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/09/19/Syria-s-chemical-weapons-disposal-will-cost-1-bln-Assad-says-.html>

WARM-UPS

1. CHEMICAL WEAPONS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about chemical weapons. 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.

chemical weapons / operation / lots of money / environment / military action / promise / rebels / attacked / Damascus / sarin gas / information / a new kind of war / fighters

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

3. PEOPLE: What do these people think about the war in Syria? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

| | What do they think? | How do they think it will end? |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bashar al-Assad | | |
| President Obama | | |
| Vladimir Putin | | |
| A rebel | | |
| A Syrian soldier | | |
| A Syrian farmer | | |

4. PEACE: Students A **strongly** believe peace will come to Syria soon; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. SYRIA DANGERS: Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most dangerous at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- chemical weapons
- Bashar al-Assad
- rebels
- Syria's neighbours
- Al Qaeda
- conventional weapons
- ethnic differences
- President Obama

6. REBEL: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "rebel". 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/1309/130921-chemical-weapons.html>

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

- a. President Assad said he will need 3 years to destroy chemical weapons. T / F
- b. Mr Assad asked America to pay \$1 billion to help destroy the weapons. T / F
- c. Mr Assad asked America to take deadly chemicals to the USA. T / F
- d. Russia agreed to military action if Syria broke its promises. T / F
- e. Mr Assad said rebels attacked Damascus with chemical weapons. T / F
- f. Russia said America needs to show more proof about the attack. T / F
- g. Mr Assad said sarin gas was very difficult to make. T / F
- h. Assad said people from just under 80 countries have joined the rebels. T / F

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

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. follow | a. complex |
| 2. destroy | b. guerillas |
| 3. complicated | c. conducted |
| 4. estimates | d. wipe out |
| 5. toxic | e. type |
| 6. carried out | f. poisonous |
| 7. rebels | g. stick to |
| 8. proof | h. to blame |
| 9. responsible | i. rough guesses |
| 10. kind | j. evidence |

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

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. follow a plan to destroy his country's | a. action |
| 2. it might take one year | b. technically |
| 3. a very complicated operation | c. make sarin |
| 4. It is very bad | d. in Damascus last month |
| 5. that includes American military | e. chemical weapons |
| 6. a chemical weapons attack | f. kind of war |
| 7. Russia says there is not enough | g. than 80 countries |
| 8. Any rebel can | h. to do this |
| 9. Syria was in a new | i. proof |
| 10. fighters from more | j. for the environment |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130921-chemical-weapons.html>

The president of Syria, Bashar al-Assad, has said he will (1) _____ a plan to destroy his country's chemical weapons. He told reporters from Fox News that it (2) _____ take one year to do this. Mr Assad said: "I think it is a very complicated operation (3) _____, and it needs a lot of money. Some (4) _____ say about \$1 billion." He added: "It is very bad for the environment. If the American government is (5) _____ to pay this money and take the responsibility of bringing (6) _____ materials to the United States, why don't they do it?" America wants Syria to agree to a United Nations resolution that includes American (7) _____ action if Syria does not (8) _____ its promise. However, Russia said no to this.

toxic
estimates
military
might
keep
follow
ready
technically

President Assad again told the world that rebels (9) _____ out a chemical weapons attack in Damascus last month. America says it has information that (10) _____ Syria's army used the sarin gas, not the rebels. Mr Assad said America was wrong. Russia says there is not enough (11) _____ that Syria's army was (12) _____. Russia's foreign minister said he has evidence that showed the rebels were (13) _____ of the sarin attack. Mr Assad explained how the rebels could have used the gas. He said: "Sarin gas is called (14) _____ gas. You know why? Because anybody can make sarin in his house. Any rebel can make sarin." He also said Syria was in "a new (15) _____ of war" because (16) _____ from more than 80 countries had joined the rebels.

part
fighters
shows
kitchen
proof
carried
kind
responsible

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130921-chemical-weapons.html>

- 1) I think it is a very complicated _____
 - a. operation technical
 - b. operation technicality
 - c. operation technically
 - d. operation technique key
- 2) He added: It is very bad _____
 - a. for the environments
 - b. for the environment
 - c. for the environmentally
 - d. for the environmental
- 3) take the responsibility of bringing _____ the United States
 - a. talk sick materials to
 - b. tock sick materials to
 - c. toxic materials to
 - d. tocks it materials to
- 4) America wants Syria to agree to a _____
 - a. United Nations revolution
 - b. United Nations red solution
 - c. United Nations resolution
 - d. United Nations revulsion
- 5) American military action if Syria does not _____
 - a. keep its promised
 - b. keep its promise
 - c. keep its promises
 - d. keep its promising
- 6) Assad again told the world that rebels carried out a chemical _____
 - a. weapons attack
 - b. weapons attacks
 - c. weapons attacker
 - d. weapons attacked
- 7) information that shows Syria's army used the sarin gas, _____
 - a. not the red balls
 - b. not the rebels
 - c. not the revels
 - d. not the levels
- 8) there is not enough proof that Syria's army _____
 - a. was responsible
 - b. was response able
 - c. was responsibility
 - d. was responsive
- 9) Mr Assad explained how the rebels could _____
 - a. have used a gas
 - b. have used the gas
 - c. have used any gas
 - d. have used this gas
- 10) He also said Syria was in a _____
 - a. new kinds of war
 - b. new kindly of war
 - c. new kind of war
 - d. new, kinder war

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130921-chemical-weapons.html>

The president of Syria, Bashar al-Assad, (1) _____ follow a plan to destroy his country's chemical weapons. He told reporters from Fox News that (2) _____ year to do this. Mr Assad said: "I think it is a very complicated (3) _____, and it needs a lot of money. Some estimates say about \$1 billion." He added: "It is very bad for the environment. If the American government (4) _____ this money and take the responsibility of (5) _____ to the United States, why don't they do it?" America wants Syria to agree to a United Nations resolution that includes American military action if Syria does (6) _____. However, Russia said no to this.

President Assad again told the world (7) _____ out a chemical weapons attack in Damascus last month. America says it has (8) _____ Syria's army used the sarin gas, not the rebels. Mr Assad said America was wrong. Russia says there is (9) _____ that Syria's army was responsible. Russia's foreign minister said he has (10) _____ the rebels were part of the sarin attack. Mr Assad explained how the rebels could have used the gas. He said: "Sarin gas is called kitchen gas. You know why? Because anybody can make sarin in his house. Any (11) _____." He also said Syria was in " (12) _____ " because fighters from more than 80 countries had joined the rebels.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130921-chemical-weapons.html>

1. What will Syria's president follow?

2. Who did Mr Assad talk to about his chemical weapons?

3. What kind of operation did Mr Assad say it was?

4. What is the destruction programme bad for?

5. What does America want do if Syria doesn't keep its promise?

6. What did Mr Assad tell the world?

7. What does America have to show Syria used chemical weapons?

8. What did Russia say about America?

9. What is another name for sarin gas?

10. How many different nationalities might be among the rebels?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130921-chemical-weapons.html>

1. What will Syria's president follow?
 - a) his heart
 - b) a plan
 - c) America's ideas
 - d) the United Nations
2. Who did Mr Assad talk to about his chemical weapons?
 - a) Wolf News
 - b) Hyena News
 - c) Fox News
 - d) Hound News
3. What kind of operation did Mr Assad say it was?
 - a) life-threatening
 - b) medical
 - c) life-saving
 - d) complicated
4. What is the destruction programme bad for?
 - a) business
 - b) the environment
 - c) international relations
 - d) people in the north of Syria
5. What does America want do if Syria doesn't keep its promise?
 - a) attack
 - b) talk
 - c) go to the U.N.
 - d) wait
6. What did Mr Assad tell the world?
 - a) rebels used chemical weapons
 - b) Syria needs help
 - c) to be quiet
 - d) Mr Obama is evil
7. What does America have to show Syria used chemical weapons?
 - a) a signed order from Mr Assad
 - b) unused weapons
 - c) video images
 - d) information
8. What did Russia say about America?
 - a) it will never attack Syria
 - b) it's a friend and ally
 - c) it was wrong
 - d) it's a bully
9. What is another name for sarin gas?
 - a) chicken gas
 - b) toilet gas
 - c) monster gas
 - d) kitchen gas
10. How many different nationalities might be among the rebels?
 - a) around 90
 - b) around 80
 - c) around 70
 - d) around 60

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130921-chemical-weapons.html>

Role A – Bashar al-Assad

You think Bashar al-Assad is the answer to Syria's war. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their people. Also, tell the others which is the least helpful of these (and why): Barack Obama, the U.N. or the rebels.

Role B – Barack Obama

You think Barack Obama is the answer to Syria's war. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their people. Also, tell the others which is the least helpful of these (and why): Bashar al-Assad, the U.N. or the rebels.

Role C – The United Nations

You think the U.N. is the answer to Syria's war. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their people. Also, tell the others which is the least helpful of these (and why): Barack Obama, Bashar al-Assad or the rebels.

Role D – The rebels

You think the rebels are the answer to Syria's war. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their people. Also, tell the others which is the least helpful of these (and why): Barack Obama, the U.N. or Bashar al-Assad.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130921-chemical-weapons.html>

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

| chemical | weapon |
|----------|--------|
| | |

- 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">• follow• might• about• ready• agree• keep | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• carried• information• enough• part• anybody• 80 |
|---|--|

CHEMICAL WEAPONS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130921-chemical-weapons.html>

Write five GOOD questions about chemical weapons 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.

CHEMICAL WEAPONS 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 'Syria'?
- c) What do you think about the situation in Syria?
- d) What do you know about how Syria's war started?
- e) How often do you follow the news on Syria?
- f) Do you think Mr Assad will follow the plan?
- g) Should the USA pay the \$1 billion to destroy the weapons?
- h) Should the USA take military action if Syria does not keep its promise?
- i) What would you like to ask Mr Assad?
- j) What do you think his answers might be?

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CHEMICAL WEAPONS 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 used the chemical weapons?
- c) Why is it so difficult to find out who carried out the attack?
- d) Why doesn't America show its information to the world?
- e) What would happen if the USA attacked Syria?
- f) Why do America and Russia disagree so much over Syria?
- g) If America proved Syria used chemical weapons, should they attack?
- h) Why have fighters from 80 countries joined Syria's war?
- i) What questions would you like to ask a rebel?
- j) What do you think his answers might be?

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/1309/130921-chemical-weapons.html>

The president of Syria, Bashar al-Assad, has said he will (1) ____ a plan to destroy his country's chemical weapons. He told reporters from Fox News that it might take one year to do (2) _____. Mr Assad said: "I think it is a very complicated operation (3) _____, and it needs a lot of money. Some estimates say about \$1 billion." He added: "It is very bad for the environment. If the American government is ready to pay this money and (4) _____ the responsibility of bringing toxic materials to the United States, why don't they do it?" America wants Syria (5) _____ agree to a United Nations resolution that includes American military action if Syria does not (6) _____ its promise. However, Russia said no to this.

President Assad again told the world that rebels carried (7) _____ a chemical weapons attack in Damascus last month. America says it has information that shows Syria's army used the sarin gas, (8) _____ the rebels. Mr Assad said America was wrong. Russia says there is not (9) _____ proof that Syria's army was responsible. Russia's foreign minister said he has evidence that showed the rebels were (10) _____ of the sarin attack. Mr Assad explained how the rebels could have (11) _____ the gas. He said: "Sarin gas is called kitchen gas. You know why? Because anybody can make sarin in his house. Any rebel can make sarin." He also said Syria was in "a (12) _____ kind of war" because fighters from more than 80 countries had joined the rebels.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) following | (b) follows | (c) follower | (d) follow |
| 2. | (a) one | (b) destroy | (c) plan | (d) this |
| 3. | (a) technical | (b) technically | (c) technique | (d) technician |
| 4. | (a) make | (b) do | (c) take | (d) be |
| 5. | (a) for | (b) at | (c) to | (d) by |
| 6. | (a) keep | (b) make | (c) cover | (d) live |
| 7. | (a) in | (b) out | (c) over | (d) away |
| 8. | (a) not | (b) for | (c) now | (d) use |
| 9. | (a) all | (b) enough | (c) plenty | (d) so |
| 10. | (a) each | (b) made | (c) part | (d) attack |
| 11. | (a) useful | (b) uses | (c) used | (d) using |
| 12. | (a) newish | (b) news | (c) newly | (d) new |

Level 3

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SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130921-chemical-weapons.html>

Paragraph 1

1. a very eliacomcdpt operation technically
2. bad for the eeivrnntmo
3. take the risynpiesoiltb
4. a United Nations tnsilorueo
5. American iamliytr action
6. if Syria does not keep its emrpios

Paragraph 2

7. eebslr carried out a chemical weapons attack
8. there is not enough ofopr
9. Russia's roeingf minister
10. Mr Assad ldneexaip how
11. Sarin gas is called necikth gas
12. tghefsri from more than 80 countries

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130921-chemical-weapons.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () kitchen gas. You know why? Because anybody can make sarin in his house. Any rebel can make sarin." He also said Syria was in
- () responsible. Russia's foreign minister said he has evidence that showed the rebels were part of the sarin
- () complicated operation technically, and it needs a lot of money. Some estimates say about
- () to pay this money and take the responsibility of bringing toxic materials to the United States, why
- () attack. Mr Assad explained how the rebels could have used the gas. He said: "Sarin gas is called
- () President Assad again told the world that rebels carried out a chemical weapons attack in Damascus
- () last month. America says it has information that shows Syria's army used the sarin gas, not the
- () American military action if Syria does not keep its promise. However, Russia said no to this.
- () \$1 billion." He added: "It is very bad for the environment. If the American government is ready
- () "a new kind of war" because fighters from more than 80 countries had joined the rebels.
- () don't they do it?" America wants Syria to agree to a United Nations resolution that includes
- (**1**) The president of Syria, Bashar al-Assad, has said he will follow a plan to destroy his country's
- () chemical weapons. He told reporters from Fox News that it might take one year to do this. Mr Assad said: "I think it is a very
- () rebels. Mr Assad said America was wrong. Russia says there is not enough proof that Syria's army was

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130921-chemical-weapons.html>

1. plan his weapons a destroy chemical Follow to country's.

2. I very think complicated it operation is a.

3. government to money American ready this The is pay.

4. of responsibility The U.S. the to materials toxic bringing.

5. a to America U.N. agree wants resolution to Syria .

6. sarin Syria's army Information used that the shows.

7. says Russia proof enough not is there.

8. attack the part sarin Showed were the rebels of.

9. the rebels could have used the gas Assad explained how.

10. 80 Fighters countries from had more joined than.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130921-chemical-weapons.html>

The president *for / of* Syria, Bashar al-Assad, has said he will follow a plan to destroy his country's chemical weapons. He told reporters from Fox News that it might take one year to do *plan / this*. Mr Assad said: "I think it is a very *complicated / complication* operation technically, and it needs a lot of money. Some *estimated / estimates* say about \$1 billion." He added: "It is very bad for the *environmental / environment*. If the American government is ready to pay this money and *make / take* the responsibility of bringing *toxic / toxicity* materials to the United States, why don't they do it?" America wants Syria to *agreement / agree* to a United Nations resolution that includes American *military / militia* action if Syria does not keep its promise. However, Russia said *no / not* to this.

President Assad *extra / again* told the world that rebels carried *in / out* a chemical weapons attack in Damascus last month. America says it has information that shows Syria's army *used / using* the sarin gas, *not / now* the rebels. Mr Assad said America was *wronged / wrong*. Russia says there is not enough proof that Syria's army was *responsible / responsibility*. Russia's foreign minister said he has *evident / evidence* that showed the rebels were part of the sarin attack. Mr Assad *explained / explanation* how the rebels could have used the gas. He said: "Sarin gas is called kitchen gas. You know why? Because anybody can make sarin in his house. Any rebel can make sarin." He also said Syria was in "a new *kindly / kind* of war" because fighters from more than 80 countries had *joined / joint* the rebels.

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/1309/130921-chemical-weapons.html>

Th_ pr_s_d_nt _f Syr__, B_sh_r _l-__ss_d, h_s s__d h_
w_ll f_ll_w __ pl_n t_d str_y h_s c__ntry's ch_m_c_l
w__p_ns. H_ t_ld r_p_r_t_rs fr_m F_x N_ws th_t _t
m_gh_t t_k_ _n_ y__r t_d th_s. Mr __ss_d s__d: "
th_nk _t_s __ v_ry c_mpl_c_t_d _p_r_t__n t_chn_c_lly,
_nd _t n__ds __ l_t _f m_n_y. S_m__ _st_m_t_s s_y
_b__t \$1 b_ll__n." H_ __dd_d: "_t_s v_ry b_d f_r th_
_nv_r_nm_nt. _f th_ _m_r_c_n_g_v_rnm_nt _s r__dy t_
p_y th_s m_n_y _nd t_k_ th_ r_sp_ns_b_l_t_y _f
br_n_g_n_g t_x_c_m_t_r__ls t_ th_ _n_t_d St_t_s, why
d_n't th_y d__t?" _m_r_c_ w_n_t_s Syr__ t_ _gr__ t_ _
_n_t_d N_t__ns r_s_l_t__n th_t _ncl_d_s _m_r_c_n
m_l_t_ry _ct__n _f Syr__ d__s n_t k__p _ts pr_m_s_.
H_w_v_r, R_ss__ s__d n_t th_s.

Pr_s_d_nt __ss_d _g__n t_ld th_ w_rld th_t r_b_ls
c_rr__d __t __ ch_m_c_l w__p_ns __tt_ck _n D_m_sc_s
l_st m_nth. _m_r_c_ s_ys _t h_s _nf_rm_t__n th_t
sh_ws Syr__'s _rmy _s_d th_s r_n_g_s, n_t th_r_b_ls.
Mr __ss_d s__d _m_r_c_ w_s wr_n_g. R_ss__ s_ys th_r_
_s n_t _n__gh pr__f th_t Syr__'s _rmy w_s
r_sp_ns_b_l_. R_ss__'s f_r__gn m_n_st_r s__d h_ h_s
_v_d_nc_ th_t sh_w_d th_r_b_ls w_r _p_r_t _f th_
s_r_n __tt_ck. Mr __ss_d _xpl__n_d h_w th_r_b_ls c__ld
h_v_ __s_d th_g_s. H_ s__d: "S_r_n_g_s __s c_ll_d
k_tch_n_g_s. Y__ kn_w why? B_c__s__ _nyb_dy c_n
m_k_s_r_n _n h_s h__s_. _ny r_b_l c_n m_k_s_r_n."
H_ __ls__ s__d Syr__ w_s _n "_n_w k_nd _f w_r"
b_c__s__ f_gh_t_rs fr_m m_r_ th_n 80 c__ntr__s h_d
j__n_d th_r_b_ls.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130921-chemical-weapons.html>

the president of syria bashar al-assad has said he will follow a plan to destroy his country's chemical weapons he told reporters from fox news that it might take one year to do this mr assad said "i think it is a very complicated operation technically and it needs a lot of money some estimates say about \$1 billion" he added "it is very bad for the environment if the american government is ready to pay this money and take the responsibility of bringing toxic materials to the united states why don't they do it" america wants syria to agree to a united nations resolution that includes american military action if syria does not keep its promise however russia said no to this

president assad again told the world that rebels carried out a chemical weapons attack in damascus last month america says it has information that shows syria's army used the sarin gas not the rebels mr assad said america was wrong russia says there is not enough proof that syria's army was responsible russia's foreign minister said he has evidence that showed the rebels were part of the sarin attack mr assad explained how the rebels could have used the gas he said "sarin gas is called kitchen gas you know why because anybody can make sarin in his house any rebel can make sarin" he also said syria was in "a new kind of war" because fighters from more than 80 countries had joined the rebels

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130921-chemical-weapons.html>

The president of Syria, Bashar al-Assad, has said he will follow a plan to destroy his country's chemical weapons. He told reporters from Fox News that it might take one year to do this. Mr Assad said: "I think it is a very complicated operation technically, and it needs a lot of money. Some estimates say about \$1 billion." He added: "It is very bad for the environment. If the American government is ready to pay this money and take the responsibility of bringing toxic material to the United States, why don't they do it?" America wants Syria to agree to a United Nations resolution that includes American military action if Syria does not keep its promise. However, Russia said no to this. President Assad again told the world that rebels carried out a chemical weapons attack in Damascus last month. America says it has information that shows Syria's army used the sarin gas, not the rebels. Mr Assad said America was wrong. Russia says there is not enough proof that Syria's army was responsible. Russia's foreign minister said he has evidence that showed the rebels were part of the sarin attack. Mr Assad explained how the rebels could have used the gas. He said: "Sarin gas is called kitchen gas. You know why? Because anybody can make sarin in his home. Any rebel can make sarin." He also said Syria was in "a new kind of war" because fighters from more than 80 countries had joined the rebels.

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 chemical weapons in Syria. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. CHEMICAL WEAPONS: Make a poster about chemical weapons. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. MOVING FORWARD: Write a magazine article about how to end the war in Syria. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against the rebels.

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 Syria's president. Ask him three questions about the chemical weapons. Give him three things he should do from now. 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 T d F e T f T g F h a

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. follow | a. stick to |
| 2. destroy | b. wipe out |
| 3. complicated | c. complex |
| 4. estimates | d. rough guesses |
| 5. toxic | e. poisonous |
| 6. carried out | f. conducted |
| 7. rebels | g. guerillas |
| 8. proof | h. evidence |
| 9. responsible | i. to blame |
| 10. kind | j. type |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. A plan to destroy his country's chemical weapons
2. Fox News
3. Complicated, technically
4. Business
5. Take military action
6. That rebels used chemical weapons
7. Information
8. It was wrong
9. Kitchen gas
10. Around 80

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 ;-)