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Level 2

Major breakthrough in US-Cuba relations

19th December, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141219-us-cuba-relations-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141219-us-cuba-relations-2.html>

New relations are starting between the USA and Cuba. The two countries have had very little contact for over fifty years. That changed on Wednesday. President Barack Obama said he wanted to get the relationship with Cuba back to normal. One of the first things he wants to do is to put back diplomatic and economic ties. He said: "Today, America chooses to cut loose the shackles of the past." Cuban President Raul Castro said: "We have agreed to re-establish diplomatic relations." The two sides have had secret talks for more than a year. These included help from Pope Francis.

The USA announced how it would reset relations. It will no longer say that Cuba sponsors terrorism. It will be easier for Americans to travel to and do business in Cuba. There will also be better Internet and communication links. A big change is the ending of a 54-year-old trade embargo. This stopped US goods going to Cuba and Cuban goods going to the USA. Mr Castro said he has worked hard to restore ties with the USA. He said he hoped the two countries could share a brighter future. He told reporters: "We must learn the art of coexisting with our differences in a civilised manner."

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-30516740>
<http://www.havanatimes.org/?p=107963>
http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/18/opinion/a-new-beginning-with-cuba.html?_r=0

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141219-us-cuba-relations-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. The two countries have had very | a. of the past |
| 2 get the relationship with Cuba | b. little contact |
| 3. One of the first things | c. from Pope Francis |
| 4. put back diplomatic | d. relations |
| 5. cut loose the shackles | e. he wants to do |
| 6. We have agreed to re-establish diplomatic | f. and economic ties |
| 7. The two sides have had secret | g. back to normal |
| 8. help | h. talks |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. It will no longer say | a. going to Cuba |
| 2 travel to and do | b. coexisting |
| 3. the ending of a 54-year-old trade | c. business in Cuba |
| 4. This stopped US goods | d. manner |
| 5. worked hard to restore | e. embargo |
| 6. share a brighter | f. ties |
| 7. learn the art of | g. future |
| 8. in a civilised | h. that |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141219-us-cuba-relations-2.html>

New relations (1) _____ the USA and Cuba. The two countries have had very little (2) _____ fifty years. That changed on Wednesday. President Barack Obama said he (3) _____ relationship with Cuba back to normal. One (4) _____ he wants to do is to put back diplomatic and economic ties. He said: "Today, America chooses (5) _____ shackles of the past." Cuban President Raul Castro said: "We have agreed to re-establish diplomatic relations." The two sides have had secret talks for more than a year. These (6) _____ Pope Francis.

The USA announced how it (7) _____. It will no longer say that Cuba sponsors terrorism. It will be easier for Americans (8) _____ business in Cuba. There will also be better Internet and communication links. A big change is the ending of a 54-year-old trade embargo. This stopped US goods going to Cuba and Cuban (9) _____ the USA. Mr Castro said he has worked hard (10) _____ with the USA. He said he hoped the two countries (11) _____ future. He told reporters: "We must learn the art of coexisting with our differences in (12) _____."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141219-us-cuba-relations-2.html>

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