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China-Japan in potential economic standoff

19th September, 2012

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1209/120919-diaoyu_senkaku.html

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THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1209/120919-diaoyu_senkaku.html

The current tensions between China and Japan over the long-standing spat surrounding ownership of five uninhabited islands in the East China Sea could spill over into a damaging economic conflict. The island group is called the Senkaku by the Japanese and known as Diaoyu by the Chinese. They are also claimed by Taiwan. Some analysts say the situation could even spiral out of control and lead to war between the two economic powerhouses. Tensions have reached boiling point after the Japanese government purchased three of the islands from their private owner earlier this month. This has sparked violent protests in over one hundred cities across China. Hundreds of Japanese factories and shops have been badly damaged.

The economic fallout over the disputed islands has already begun. It could seriously affect the US\$345 billion in bilateral trade between the two countries. Many Japanese companies, such as Panasonic, Toyota and Sony, have halted production and shut their factories. Japan's tourism industry, already suffering after last year's earthquake and tsunami, has taken a hit as thousands of Chinese have cancelled trips to Japan. Chinese economists are suggesting a variety of retaliatory measures that could inflict significant damage on Japan's faltering economic recovery. Among these are economic sanctions, a boycott of Japanese goods and cutting off the supply of "rare-earth" metals required by Japan's tech industries.

WARM-UPS

1. CHINA-JAPAN DISPUTE: Walk around the class and talk to other students about this dispute. Change partners often. Share your findings with your first partner.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

tensions / spat / uninhabited islands / spiral out of control / powerhouses / protests / economic fallout / bilateral trade / tourism industry / retaliatory measures / boycott

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

3. DISPUTES: What do you know about these disputes? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

Dispute	What you know	What will happen 100 years from now?
China-Japan		
Israel-Palestine		
Falkland Islands		
Kashmir		
North/South Korea		
South Ossetia		

4. AGREEMENT: Students A **strongly** believe this dispute will be resolved soon; Students B **strongly** believe not. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. RESOLVED: What's the best way to resolve this dispute? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- U.N. decision on the islands
- rock, paper, scissors
- shared China-Japan ownership
- making it a neutral area
- sell the islands to the highest bidder
- control islands for a decade each
- split the islands between China/Japan
- Chinese-Japanese dialogue

6. TENSIONS: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'tensions'. 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/1209/120919-diaoyu_senkaku.html

1. TRUE / FALSE:

Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. A territorial dispute could damage Chinese-Japanese trade. | T / F |
| b. Some experts say the tensions could lead to war. | T / F |
| c. Japan nationalized all five of the islands in early September. | T / F |
| d. Over 200 Chinese cities have reported violent protests against Japan. | T / F |
| e. Trade between the two countries reached \$345 million in 2011. | T / F |
| f. Japan's tourism industry is suffering because of the dispute. | T / F |
| g. Some Chinese economists suggested hurting Japan's economy. | T / F |
| h. Japan has boycotted purchasing rare-earth metals from China. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. current | a. stopped |
| 2. spat | b. started |
| 3. spiral | c. effects |
| 4. purchased | d. decline |
| 5. sparked | e. tit-for-tat |
| 6. fallout | f. present |
| 7. bilateral | g. avoidance |
| 8. halted | h. disagreement |
| 9. retaliatory | i. two-way |
| 10. boycott | j. bought |

3. PHRASE MATCH:

(Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. long-standing | a. out of control |
| 2. could spill | b. production |
| 3. spiral | c. violent protests |
| 4. tensions have reached | d. over |
| 5. This has sparked | e. trade |
| 6. The economic | f. spat |
| 7. \$345 billion in bilateral | g. measures |
| 8. halted | h. boiling point |
| 9. a variety of retaliatory | i. of Japanese goods |
| 10. a boycott | j. fallout |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1209/120919-diaoyu_senkaku.html

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The (1) _____ tensions between China and Japan over the long-standing (2) _____ surrounding ownership of five (3) _____ islands in the East China Sea could (4) _____ over into a damaging economic conflict. The island group is called the Senkaku by the Japanese and known as Diaoyu by the Chinese. They are also (5) _____ by Taiwan. Some analysts say the situation could even (6) _____ out of control and lead to war between the two economic powerhouses. Tensions have reached (7) _____ point after the Japanese government purchased three of the islands from their private owner earlier this month. This has (8) _____ violent protests in over one hundred cities across China. Hundreds of Japanese factories and shops have been badly damaged.

spill
sparked
spat
claimed
current
boiling
uninhabited
spiral

The economic fallout over the (9) _____ islands has already begun. It could seriously affect the US\$345 billion in (10) _____ trade between the two countries. Many Japanese companies, such as Panasonic, Toyota and Sony, have (11) _____ production and shut their factories. Japan's tourism industry, already suffering after last year's earthquake and tsunami, has taken a (12) _____ as thousands of Chinese have cancelled trips to Japan. Chinese economists are suggesting a (13) _____ of retaliatory measures that could inflict significant damage on Japan's (14) _____ economic recovery. Among these are economic sanctions, a (15) _____ of Japanese goods and cutting off the (16) _____ of "rare-earth" metals required by Japan's tech industries.

hit
halted
disputed
supply
boycott
bilateral
variety
faltering

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1209/120919-diaoyu_senkaku.html

The current tensions between China and Japan (1) _____ spat surrounding ownership of (2) _____ in the East China Sea could spill over into a damaging economic conflict. The island group is called the Senkaku by the Japanese and known as Diaoyu by the Chinese. They (3) _____ Taiwan. Some analysts say the situation could (4) _____ control and lead to war between the two economic powerhouses. Tensions have (5) _____ after the Japanese government purchased three of the islands from their private owner earlier this month. This has (6) _____ in over one hundred cities across China. Hundreds of Japanese factories and shops have been badly damaged.

The (7) _____ the disputed islands has already begun. It could seriously affect the US\$345 billion (8) _____ between the two countries. Many Japanese companies, such as Panasonic, Toyota and Sony, have (9) _____ shut their factories. Japan's tourism industry, already suffering after last year's earthquake and tsunami, has (10) _____ thousands of Chinese have cancelled trips to Japan. Chinese economists are suggesting a (11) _____ measures that could inflict significant damage on Japan's faltering economic recovery. Among these are economic sanctions, a boycott of Japanese goods and cutting (12) _____ "rare-earth" metals required by Japan's tech industries.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1209/120919-diaoyu_senkaku.html

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

bilateral	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">• standing• spill• known• war• boiling• sparked	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• begun• production• suffering• trips• recovery• supply
--	--

INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1209/120919-diaoyu_senkaku.html

Write five GOOD questions about international disputes 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.

JAPAN-CHINA 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 'tensions'?
- c) What do you think of the standoff between China and Japan?
- d) Who owns the islands?
- e) Should the U.N. sort out the issue of ownership?
- f) How far do you think Chinese and Japanese leaders will let the situation damage their economies?
- g) What do you know about the history of this standoff?
- h) Why are the islands so important?
- i) Do you think there could be war between China and Japan?
- j) Was Japan's purchase of three of the islands a bad move?

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JAPAN-CHINA DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Is the economic fallout worth it for either country?
- c) Could a long dispute affect the global economy?
- d) Is China doing enough to stop Japanese factories and shops being damaged?
- e) How long do you think it would take to restore relations between the two economic powerhouses?
- f) Which country would suffer more in tit-for-tat economic measures?
- g) Will Japan and China ever live side-by-side in mutual respect?
- h) What advice would you give to the leader of each country?
- i) How do you think will this dispute / conflict be resolved?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the leaders of Japan and China?

LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1209/120919-diaoyu_senkaku.html

The current tensions between China and Japan (1) ____ the long-standing spat surrounding ownership of five uninhabited islands in the East China Sea could spill over into a damaging economic conflict. The island group is called the Senkaku by the Japanese and (2) ____ as Diaoyu by the Chinese. They are also claimed by Taiwan. Some analysts say the situation could even (3) ____ out of control and lead to war between the two economic powerhouses. Tensions have reached (4) ____ point after the Japanese government purchased three of the islands from their private owner earlier this month. This has (5) ____ violent protests in over one hundred cities across China. Hundreds of Japanese factories and shops have been (6) ____ damaged.

The economic (7) ____ over the disputed islands has already begun. It could seriously affect the US\$345 billion in (8) ____ trade between the two countries. Many Japanese companies, such as Panasonic, Toyota and Sony, have (9) ____ production and shut their factories. Japan's tourism industry, already suffering after last year's earthquake and tsunami, has taken a (10) ____ as thousands of Chinese have cancelled trips to Japan. Chinese economists are suggesting a variety of retaliatory (11) ____ that could inflict significant damage on Japan's faltering economic recovery. (12) ____ these are economic sanctions, a boycott of Japanese goods and cutting off the supply of "rare-earth" metals required by Japan's tech industries.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) over | (b) regard | (c) concerns | (d) through |
| 2. | (a) knew | (b) knowing | (c) known | (d) knows |
| 3. | (a) pivot | (b) pirouette | (c) scurry | (d) spiral |
| 4. | (a) bubbling | (b) boiling | (c) brewing | (d) blistering |
| 5. | (a) spanked | (b) speared | (c) spooked | (d) sparked |
| 6. | (a) mortally | (b) deadly | (c) badly | (d) poorly |
| 7. | (a) fall back | (b) fallout | (c) fall short | (d) fall apart |
| 8. | (a) bilateral | (b) bionic | (c) biopsy | (d) bifocal |
| 9. | (a) halted | (b) jaunted | (c) planted | (d) jointed |
| 10. | (a) left | (b) while | (c) hit | (d) time |
| 11. | (a) tapes | (b) gauges | (c) rulers | (d) measures |
| 12. | (a) Through | (b) Among | (c) Between | (d) Inside |

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 dispute between China and Japan in the East China Sea. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. EAST CHINA SEA: Make a poster about the islands at the centre of this dispute. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. TENSIONS: Write a magazine article about this dispute. Include imaginary interviews with someone from China and someone from Japan.

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. LETTER: Write a letter to the head of the United Nations. Ask him three questions about this situation. Give him three ideas on how to resolve this situation. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

a. T b. T c. F d. F e. F f. T g. T h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. current | a. present |
| 2. spat | b. disagreement |
| 3. spiral | c. decline |
| 4. purchased | d. bought |
| 5. sparked | e. started |
| 6. fallout | f. effects |
| 7. bilateral | g. two-way |
| 8. halted | h. stopped |
| 9. retaliatory | i. tit-for-tat |
| 10. boycott | j. avoidance |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. long-standing | a. spat |
| 2. could spill | b. over |
| 3. spiral | c. out of control |
| 4. tensions have reached | d. boiling point |
| 5. This has sparked | e. violent protests |
| 6. The economic | f. fallout |
| 7. \$345 billion in bilateral | g. trade |
| 8. halted | h. production |
| 9. a variety of retaliatory | i. measures |
| 10. a boycott | j. of Japanese goods |

GAP FILL:

China-Japan in potential economic standoff

The (1) **current** tensions between China and Japan over the long-standing (2) **spat** surrounding ownership of five (3) **uninhabited** islands in the East China Sea could (4) **spill** over into a damaging economic conflict. The island group is called the Senkaku by the Japanese and known as Diaoyu by the Chinese. They are also (5) **claimed** by Taiwan. Some analysts say the situation could even (6) **spiral** out of control and lead to war between the two economic powerhouses. Tensions have reached (7) **boiling** point after the Japanese government purchased three of the islands from their private owner earlier this month. This has (8) **sparked** violent protests in over one hundred cities across China. Hundreds of Japanese factories and shops have been badly damaged.

The economic fallout over the (9) **disputed** islands has already begun. It could seriously affect the US\$345 billion in (10) **bilateral** trade between the two countries. Many Japanese companies, such as Panasonic, Toyota and Sony, have (11) **halted** production and shut their factories. Japan's tourism industry, already suffering after last year's earthquake and tsunami, has taken a (12) **hit** as thousands of Chinese have cancelled trips to Japan. Chinese economists are suggesting a (13) **variety** of retaliatory measures that could inflict significant damage on Japan's (14) **faltering** economic recovery. Among these are economic sanctions, a (15) **boycott** of Japanese goods and cutting off the (16) **supply** of "rare-earth" metals required by Japan's tech industries.

LANGUAGE WORK

1 - a 2 - c 3 - d 4 - b 5 - d 6 - c 7 - b 8 - a 9 - a 10 - c 11 - d 12 - b

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