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Level 2

Barack Obama's credit card problem

20th October, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1410/141020-credit-cards-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/1410/141020-credit-cards-2.html>

Even the U.S. President has embarrassing moments with credit cards. Barack Obama had one last month in an expensive restaurant in New York. The cashier couldn't accept his credit card. The President said: "I went to a restaurant during the U.N. General Assembly, and my credit card was rejected....I guess, I don't use it enough." He said the cashier thought his card was being used for illegal reasons. He explained that he did not have enough cash to pay for the restaurant bill. Luckily, his wife paid using her credit card, so they could leave the restaurant.

Mr Obama was signing a new law to protect consumers. It will tighten the controls on credit cards and help stop identity theft. Identity theft is a growing problem all over the world. Up to 100 million Americans have been affected in the past year because someone stole their private information. The new law is called "BuySecure". It wants credit cards to change from cards with magnetic strips to ones with microchips and PIN numbers. Magnetic strips are old technology. It is easy for hackers to read them. Hackers then put the information on other cards.

Sources: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-politics/wp/2014/10/17/president-obamas-credit-card-was-rejected-last-month/>
<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/obamas-credit-card-declined-at-restaurant/>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-29664831>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1410/141020-credit-cards-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. embarrassing | a. accept his credit card |
| 2. an expensive | b. cash to pay |
| 3. The cashier couldn't | c. the restaurant |
| 4. the U.N. General | d. using her credit card |
| 5. being used for | e. moments |
| 6. he did not have enough | f. illegal reasons |
| 7. his wife paid | g. Assembly |
| 8. so they could leave | h. restaurant |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Mr Obama was signing | a. theft |
| 2. protect | b. on credit cards |
| 3. tighten the controls | c. magnetic strips |
| 4. help stop identity | d. consumers |
| 5. a growing problem | e. to read them |
| 6. change from cards with | f. numbers |
| 7. microchips and PIN | g. a new law |
| 8. It is easy for hackers | h. all over the world |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1410/141020-credit-cards-2.html>

Even the U.S. President has (1) _____ with credit cards. Barack Obama had one last month (2) _____ restaurant in New York. The (3) _____ accept his credit card. The President said: "I went to a restaurant during the U.N. General Assembly, and my credit card (4) _____....I guess, I don't use it enough." He said the cashier thought his card was being (5) _____. He explained that he did not have enough cash to pay for the restaurant bill. Luckily, (6) _____ her credit card, so they could leave the restaurant.

Mr Obama was signing a new (7) _____ consumers. It will tighten the controls on credit cards and help stop identity theft. Identity theft (8) _____ all over the world. Up to 100 million Americans (9) _____ in the past year because someone stole their private information. The new law is called "BuySecure". It wants credit cards (10) _____ cards with (11) _____ to ones with microchips and PIN numbers. Magnetic strips are old technology. It is easy for hackers to read them. Hackers then (12) _____ on other cards.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1410/141020-credit-cards-2.html>

EventheU.S.Presidenthasembarrassingmomentswithcreditcards.BarackObamahadonelastmonthinanexpensiverestaurantinNewYork.Thecashiercouldn'tacceptthiscreditcard.ThePresidentsaid:"IwenttoarestaurantduringtheU.N.GeneralAssembly,andmycreditcardwasrejected....Iguess,Idon'tuseitenough."Hesaidthecashierroughthiscardwasbeingusedforillegalreasons.Heexplainedthathedidnothaveenoughcashtopayfortherestaurantbill.Luckily,hiswifepaidusinghercreditcard,sotheycouldleavetherestaurant.MrObamawassigninganewlawtoprotectconsumers.Itwilltightenthecontrolsoncreditcardsandhelpstopidentitytheft.Identitytheftisagrowingproblemallovertheworld.Upto100millionAmericanshavebeenaffectedinthepastyearbecause someone stole their private information.The new law is called "Buy Secure". It wants credit cards to change from cards with magnetic strips to ones with microchips and PIN numbers. Magnetic strips are old technology. It is easy for hacker to read them. Hacker then put the information on the cards.

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)
