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Level 3

Major breakthrough in US-Cuba relations

19th December, 2014

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

A new chapter is starting with relations between the USA and Cuba. The two countries have had very little contact with each other for over fifty years. That changed on Wednesday when US President Barack Obama announced he wanted to get the relationship between the USA and Cuba back to normal. One of the first things President Obama wants to do is to restore diplomatic and economic ties. He told reporters that: "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 been in secret talks for more than a year. Some negotiations were at the Vatican and included help from Pope Francis.

The White House announced a series of actions to reset relations between the two nations. The USA will no longer state that Cuba sponsors terrorism. It will be easier for US citizens to travel to and do business in Cuba. There will also be better telephone and Internet access for people to communicate with each other. A major change is the lifting of the 54-year-old trade embargo that stops US goods going to Cuba and all Cuban goods going to the USA. Mr Castro said he has worked hard for the normalisation of ties with the USA. He said he hoped the two countries could now share a brighter future together. 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

WARM-UPS

1. CUBA: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Cuba. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

chapter / relations / contact / normal / cut loose / the past / diplomatic / negotiations / reset / terrorism / do business / Internet access / trade embargo / brighter future

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

3. TIES: How can Cuba and the USA make ties between them better? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What they could do	How this would help
Trade		
Sports		
Education		
Culture		
Visas		
Embassies		

4. FRIENDS: Students A **strongly** believe all countries will be good friends with each other one day; Students B **strongly** believe that will never happen. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. RELATIONS: Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to help relations between countries at the top at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- same language
- trade
- sporting rivalry
- same politics
- art
- common enemy
- ethnicity
- religion

6. NORMAL: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "normal". 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/1412/141219-us-cuba-relations.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE:

- Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).
- a. The article says a new paragraph is starting between the US and Cuba. T / F
 - b. The US and Cuba have not had much contact for more than 50 years. T / F
 - c. President Obama said he wanted to break free from the past. T / F
 - d. Pope Francis helped in negotiations between the US and Cuba. T / F
 - e. It will still be difficult for US citizens to visit Cuba. T / F
 - f. The trade embargo between the two countries will stay in place. T / F
 - g. Cuba's president said this breakthrough didn't take much work. T / F
 - h. Cuba's president said the US and Cuba had to learn to live together. T / F

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. chapter | a. great |
| 2. announced | b. period |
| 3. normal | c. countries |
| 4. secret | d. talks |
| 5. negotiations | e. supports |
| 6. nations | f. links |
| 7. sponsors | g. declared |
| 8. major | h. way |
| 9. ties | i. usual |
| 10. manner | j. confidential |

3. PHRASE MATCH:

(Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. The two countries have had very little | a. do business in Cuba |
| 2. restore diplomatic and | b. of the past |
| 3. cut loose the shackles | c. were at the Vatican |
| 4. The two sides have been in secret talks | d. to reset relations |
| 5. Some negotiations | e. economic ties |
| 6. a series of actions | f. future together |
| 7. travel to and | g. for more than a year |
| 8. the lifting of the 54-year-old | h. manner |
| 9. share a brighter | i. contact with each other |
| 10. in a civilised. | j. trade embargo |

GAP FILL

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

A new (1) _____ is starting with relations between the USA and Cuba. The two countries have had very little (2) _____ with each other for over fifty years. That changed on Wednesday when US President Barack Obama (3) _____ he wanted to get the relationship between the USA and Cuba back to (4) _____. One of the first things President Obama wants to do is to restore diplomatic and economic (5) _____. He told reporters that: "Today, America chooses to cut loose the shackles of the (6) _____. " Cuban President Raul Castro said: "We have agreed to re-establish diplomatic relations." The two sides have been in (7) _____ talks for more than a year. Some negotiations were at the Vatican and included (8) _____ from Pope Francis.

announced

chapter

secret

ties

contact

help

normal

past

The White House announced a (9) _____ of actions to reset relations between the two nations. The USA will no longer (10) _____ that Cuba sponsors terrorism. It will be easier for US citizens to travel to and do business in Cuba. There will also be better telephone and Internet (11) _____ for people to communicate with each other. A major change is the (12) _____ of the 54-year-old trade embargo that stops US (13) _____ going to Cuba and all Cuban goods going to the USA. Mr Castro said he has worked hard for the normalisation of ties with the USA. He said he (14) _____ the two countries could now share a (15) _____ future together. He told reporters: "We must learn the (16) _____ of coexisting with our differences in a civilised manner."

lifting

series

access

hoped

state

art

goods

brighter

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) A new chapter is starting with relations _____ and Cuba
 - a. between the USA
 - b. in between the USA
 - c. among the USA
 - d. amongst the USA
- 2) The two countries have had very little contact _____
 - a. without each other
 - b. within each other
 - c. wither each other
 - d. with each other
- 3) get the relationship between the USA and Cuba _____
 - a. backs to normal
 - b. backed to normal
 - c. back to normal
 - d. backing to normal
- 4) Today, America chooses to cut loose the shackles _____
 - a. of the passed
 - b. of the past
 - c. of the parsed
 - d. of the parts
- 5) Some negotiations were at the Vatican and included _____ Francis
 - a. yelp from Pope
 - b. kelp from Pope
 - c. help from Pope
 - d. whelp from Pope
- 6) The White House announced a series of actions _____
 - a. to request relations
 - b. to reassert relations
 - c. to resend relations
 - d. to reset relations
- 7) It will be easier for US citizens to travel to and _____ Cuba
 - a. does business in
 - b. do business in
 - c. doing business in
 - d. doer business in
- 8) the lifting of the 54-year-old trade embargo that stops US _____ Cuba
 - a. goods going to
 - b. good going to
 - c. goodies going to
 - d. goodness going to
- 9) Mr Castro said he has worked hard for the normalisation _____ USA
 - a. of Thais with the
 - b. of tiles with the
 - c. of types with the
 - d. of ties with the
- 10) We must learn the art of coexisting with our differences _____ manner
 - a. in a civilised
 - b. on a civilised
 - c. inner civilised
 - d. in the civilised

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

A new (1) _____ with relations between the USA and Cuba. The two countries have had (2) _____ with each other for over fifty years. That changed on Wednesday when US President Barack Obama announced he (3) _____ the relationship between the USA and Cuba back to normal. One of the first things President Obama wants (4) _____ restore diplomatic and economic ties. He told reporters that: "Today, America chooses to cut loose the shackles of the past." Cuban President Raul Castro said: "(5) _____ to re-establish diplomatic relations." The two sides have been in secret talks for more than a year. (6) _____ were at the Vatican and included help from Pope Francis.

The White House announced (7) _____ to reset relations between the two nations. The USA will no longer state that Cuba sponsors terrorism. It (8) _____ US citizens to travel to and do business in Cuba. There will also be better telephone and Internet access for people to communicate (9) _____. A major change is the lifting of the 54-year-old trade embargo that (10) _____ to Cuba and all Cuban goods going to the USA. Mr Castro said he has worked hard for the normalisation (11) _____ USA. He said he hoped the two countries could now share a brighter future together. He told reporters: "We must (12) _____ coexisting with our differences in a civilised manner."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. How long has it been that Cuba and the US have had so little contact?

2. On what day did President Obama make his announcement?

3. What is one of the first things President Obama wants to restore?

4. What does Mr Obama want to do to the "shackles of the past"?

5. Where were some of the secret negotiations held?

6. What will the series of actions announced by the White House do?

7. Who will have an easier time doing business in Cuba?

8. For how many years has the trade embargo been in place?

9. Who said he worked hard for the normalization of ties?

10. What kind of future did Raul Castro hope the two countries could share?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

1. How long has it been that Cuba and the US have had so little contact?
 - a) almost five decades
 - b) five decades
 - c) more than 50 years
 - d) 50 years
2. On what day did President Obama make his announcement?
 - a) Wednesday
 - b) American Independence Day
 - c) Cuban Independence Day
 - d) Black Friday
3. What is one of the first things President Obama wants to restore?
 - a) diplomatic and economic ties
 - b) ferry services
 - c) Havana's museums
 - d) an old car
4. What does Mr Obama want to do to the "shackles of the past"?
 - a) put them in a museum
 - b) cut them loose
 - c) sell them
 - d) burn them
5. Where were some of the secret negotiations held?
 - a) Nicaragua
 - b) Geneva
 - c) Madrid
 - d) the Vatican
6. What will the series of actions announced by the White House do?
 - a) invite Mr Castro to the White House
 - b) reset relations
 - c) very little
 - d) restart flights
7. Who will have an easier time doing business in Cuba?
 - a) US citizens
 - b) investment banks
 - c) Cuban CEOs
 - d) tourists
8. For how many years has the trade embargo been in place?
 - a) 52
 - b) 53
 - c) 54
 - d) 55
9. Who said he worked hard for the normalisation of ties?
 - a) Pope Francis
 - b) Angel Rodriguez
 - c) Cuba's top diplomat
 - d) Raul Castro
10. What kind of future did Raul Castro hope the two countries could share?
 - a) a brighter one
 - b) a long one
 - c) a rosy one
 - d) an uncertain one

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Same language

You think having the same language is best thing for relations between two countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): same enemies, same religion or same currency.

Role B – Same enemies

You think having the same enemies is best thing for relations between two countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): same language, same religion or same currency.

Role C – Same religion

You think having the same religion is best thing for relations between two countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): same enemies, same language or same currency.

Role D – Same currency

You think having the same currency is best thing for relations between two countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): same enemies, same religion or same language.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

break	through
--------------	----------------

- 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">• chapter• fifty• get• cut• sides• help	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• series• state• access• goods• hoped• manner
--	--

CUBA SURVEY

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

Write five GOOD questions about Cuba 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.

CUBA DISCUSSION

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

- 1) What did you think when you read the headline?
- 2) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'relations'?
- 3) What do you know about relations between Cuba and the US?
- 4) How will better relations change things for people in Cuba?
- 5) How will this news change the world?
- 6) How important is it to get US-Cuban relations back to normal?
- 7) Who does your country need to restore relations with?
- 8) How can the USA restore relations with other countries?
- 9) How important is this news in terms of world history?
- 10) Why and how do you think Pope Francis helped?

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CUBA DISCUSSION

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

- 11) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- 12) Why did the USA decide Cuba sponsored terrorism?
- 13) How will more Americans going to Cuba change Cuba?
- 14) How will better relations help Americans?
- 15) How will the future between the two countries be brighter?
- 16) What difficulties might there be from now?
- 17) What three adjectives best describe this story (and why)?
- 18) Which other two nations really need to restore relations?
- 19) How difficult is it for countries to coexist?
- 20) What questions would you like to ask Raul Castro?

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/1412/141219-us-cuba-relations.html>

A new chapter is (1) ____ with relations between the USA and Cuba. The two countries have had very (2) ____ contact with each other for over fifty years. That changed on Wednesday when US President Barack Obama announced he wanted to get the relationship between the USA and Cuba (3) ____ to normal. One of the first things President Obama wants to do is to restore diplomatic and economic (4) _____. He told reporters that: "Today, America chooses to cut loose the shackles of the (5) _____. Cuban President Raul Castro said: "We have agreed to re-establish diplomatic relations." The two sides have been (6) ____ secret talks for more than a year. Some negotiations were at the Vatican and included help from Pope Francis.

The White House announced a (7) ____ of actions to reset relations between the two nations. The USA will no longer state that Cuba sponsors terrorism. It will be easier for US citizens to travel to and (8) ____ business in Cuba. There will also be better telephone and Internet access for people to communicate with each other. A major change is the (9) ____ of the 54-year-old trade embargo that stops US goods going to Cuba and all Cuban (10) ____ going to the USA. Mr Castro said he has worked hard for the normalisation of ties with the USA. He said he hoped the two countries could now share a (11) ____ future together. He told reporters: "We must learn the art of coexisting with our differences in a civilised (12) ____."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) stirring | (b) starring | (c) staring | (d) starting |
| 2. | (a) few | (b) tiny | (c) small | (d) little |
| 3. | (a) front | (b) back | (c) up | (d) down |
| 4. | (a) ropes | (b) strings | (c) ties | (d) bands |
| 5. | (a) past | (b) passed | (c) parsed | (d) paste |
| 6. | (a) in | (b) on | (c) to | (d) at |
| 7. | (a) various | (b) varies | (c) serious | (d) series |
| 8. | (a) do | (b) be | (c) take | (d) try |
| 9. | (a) elevating | (b) lifting | (c) upping | (d) increasing |
| 10. | (a) bards | (b) evils | (c) goods | (d) wells |
| 11. | (a) brighten | (b) brightness | (c) brighter | (d) brightly |
| 12. | (a) banner | (b) manner | (c) tanner | (d) fanner |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. A new phctrae is starting
2. The two countries have had very little cntoac
3. ooeiccmn ties
4. agreed to re-establish ilcmpoaidt relations
5. been in tscree talks for more than a year
6. eiucnlld help from Pope Francis

Paragraph 2

7. US nicszeit
8. Internet esaccs
9. eumcoimatcn with each other
10. the 54-year-old trade oraegbm
11. share a hebrgirt future together
12. in a eivldciis (UK) / lizicdvie (USA) manner

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () to and do business in Cuba. There will also be better telephone and Internet access for people to communicate
- () announced he wanted to get the relationship between the USA and Cuba back to normal. One of the first
- () goods going to Cuba and all Cuban goods going to the USA. Mr Castro said he has worked hard for the normalisation
- () to re-establish diplomatic relations." The two sides have been in secret talks for
- () of ties with the USA. He said he hoped the two countries could now share a brighter future
- () more than a year. Some negotiations were at the Vatican and included help from Pope Francis.
- () "Today, America chooses to cut loose the shackles of the past." Cuban President Raul Castro said: "We have agreed
- () together. He told reporters: "We must learn the art of coexisting with our differences in a civilised manner."
- () The White House announced a series of actions to reset relations between the two
- () contact with each other for over fifty years. That changed on Wednesday when US President Barack Obama
- (1) A new chapter is starting with relations between the USA and Cuba. The two countries have had very little
- () things President Obama wants to do is to restore diplomatic and economic ties. He told reporters that:
- () with each other. A major change is the lifting of the 54-year-old trade embargo that stops US
- () nations. The USA will no longer state that Cuba sponsors terrorism. It will be easier for US citizens to travel

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. contact have had The very two little countries.

2. relationship USA back the the Cuba Get between and.

3. to cut loose the shackles of the past America chooses.

4. establish agreed - relations have re diplomatic We to.

5. been The in two secret sides talks have.

6. to two reset nations relations between Actions the.

7. business to citizens Easier in and to for Cuba do travel US.

8. 54 the of lifting The embargo trade old - year -.

9. share future Two now brighter could a together countries.

10. art the learn must We coexisting of.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

A new *chapter / charter* is starting with relations between the USA and Cuba. The two countries have had very little *contract / contact* with each other for *over / under* fifty years. That changed on Wednesday when US President Barack Obama *announced / announcement* he wanted to get the relationship between the USA and Cuba back *on / to* normal. One of the first things President Obama wants to do is to *restore / store* diplomatic and economic ties. He told reporters that: "Today, America chooses to cut *lose / loose* the shackles of the past." Cuban President Raul Castro said: "We have *agreed / agreeing* to re-establish diplomatic relations." The two sides have been *in / on* secret talks for more than a year. Some negotiations were at the Vatican and included help *for / from* Pope Francis.

The White House announced a *serious / series* of actions to reset relations between the two nations. The USA will no *larger / longer* state that Cuba sponsors terrorism. It will be easier for US citizens to travel to and do business *in / to* Cuba. There will also *be / have* better telephone and Internet *access / excess* for people to communicate with each other. A major change is the *lifting / lifts* of the 54-year-old trade embargo that stops US goods going to Cuba and all Cuban goods *gone / going* to the USA. Mr Castro said he has worked hard *for / from* the normalisation of ties with the USA. He said he hoped the two countries could now share a *brightness / brighter* future together. He told reporters: "We must learn the art of coexisting with our differences in a civilised *manner / manners*."

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/1412/141219-us-cuba-relations.html>

_ n_w ch_pt_r _s st_rt_ng w_th r_l_t_ns b_tw_n th_ _S_ _nd C_b_. Th_ tw_ c_ntr_s h_v_ h_d v_ry l_ttl_c_nt_ct w_th __ch _th_r f_r _v_r f_fty y_rs. Th_t ch_ng_d _n W_dn_sd_y wh_n _S Pr_s_d_nt B_r_ck b_m_ _nn_nc_d h_ w_nt_d t_ g_t th_ r_l_t_nsh_p b_tw_n th_ _S_ _nd C_b_ b_ck t_n_rm_l. _n_ f th_f_rst th_ngs Pr_s_d_nt _b_m_ w_nts t_ d_ s t_r_st_r_ d_pl_m_t_c _nd _c_n_m_c t_s. H_ t_ld r_p_rt_rs th_t: "T_d_y, _m_r_c_ ch_ss_st_ c_t l_s th_ sh_ckl_s _f th_ p_st." C_b_n Pr_s_d_nt R_l C_str_s_d: "W_ h_v_ gr_d t_ r_-st_b_l_sh d_pl_m_t_c r_l_t_ns." Th_ tw_ s_d_s h_v_ b_n_ n s_cr_t t_lks f_r m_r_ th_n_ y_r. S_m_ n_g_t_t_ns w_r_ t th_V_t_c_n _nd _ncl_d_d h_lp fr_m P_p_ Fr_nc_s.

Th_ Wh_t_ H_s_ _nn_nc_d _ s_r_s _f ct_ns t_r_s_t r_l_t_ns b_tw_n th_ tw_ n_t_ns. Th_ _S_ w_ll n_l_ng_r st_t_ th_t C_b_ sp_ns_rs t_rr_r_sm. _t w_ll b_s_r f_r_S c_t_z_ns t_ tr_v_l t_ nd d_ b_s_n_ss _n C_b_. Th_r_ w_ll _ls_ b_ b_tt_r t_l_ph_n_ nd nt_rn_t cc_ss f_r p_pl_t_ c_mm_n_c_t_ w_th ch_th_r. _ m_j_r ch_ng_ s th_ l_ft_ng _f th_ 54-y_r-ld tr_d_ mb_rg_ th_t st_ps _S g_ds g_ng t_ C_b_ nd _ll C_b_n g.ds g_ng t_ th_ _S_. Mr C_str_s_d h_h_s w rk_d h_rd f_r th_ n_rm_l_s_t_n_f t_s w_th th_ _S_. H_s_d h_h_p_d th_ tw_ c_ntr_s c_id n_w sh_r_ br_ght_r f_t_r_ t_g_th_r. H_ t_ld r_p_rt_rs: "W_ m_st l_rn th_ rt _f c_x_st_ng w_th _r_d_ff_r_nc_s_n_ c_v_l_s_d m_nn_r."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

a new chapter is starting with relations between the usa and cuba the two countries have had very little contact with each other for over fifty years that changed on wednesday when us president barack obama announced he wanted to get the relationship between the usa and cuba back to normal one of the first things president obama wants to do is to restore diplomatic and economic ties he told reporters that "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 been in secret talks for more than a year some negotiations were at the vatican and included help from pope francis

the white house announced a series of actions to reset relations between the two nations the usa will no longer state that cuba sponsors terrorism it will be easier for us citizens to travel to and do business in cuba there will also be better telephone and internet access for people to communicate with each other a major change is the lifting of the 54-year-old trade embargo that stops us goods going to cuba and all cuban goods going to the usa mr castro said he has worked hard for the normalisation of ties with the usa he said he hoped the two countries could now share a brighter future together he told reporters "we must learn the art of coexisting with our differences in a civilised manner"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

A new chapter is starting with relations between the USA and Cuba. The two countries have had very little contact with each other for over fifty years. That changed on Wednesday when US President Barack Obama announced he wanted to get the relationship between the USA and Cuba back to normal. One of the first things President Obama wants to do is to restore diplomatic and economic ties. He told reporters that: "Today, America chose 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 been in secret talks for more than a year. Some negotiations were at the Vatican and included help from Pope Francis. The White House announced a series of actions to reset relations between the two nations. The USA will no longer state that Cuba sponsors terrorism. It will be easier for US citizens to travel to and do business in Cuba. There will also be better telephone and Internet access for people to communicate with each other. A major change is the lifting of the 54-year-old trade embargo that stops US goods going to Cuba and all Cuban goods going to the USA. Mr Castro said he has worked hard for the normalisation of ties with the USA. He said he hoped the two countries could now share a brighter future together. He told reporters: "We must learn the art of coexisting with our differences in a civilised manner."

FREE WRITING

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

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

ACADEMIC WRITING

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

The future of the world is bright. Discuss.

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

3. CUBA: Make a poster about Cuba. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: Write a magazine article about international relations. Include imaginary interviews with people who think they will get better and with people who think they will get worse.

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 an expert on Cuba. Ask him/her three questions about the country. Give him/her three of your ideas on what Cuba will be like in ten years 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 T e F f F g F h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. chapter | a. period |
| 2. announced | b. declared |
| 3. normal | c. usual |
| 4. secret | d. confidential |
| 5. negotiations | e. talks |
| 6. nations | f. countries |
| 7. sponsors | g. supports |
| 8. major | h. great |
| 9. ties | i. links |
| 10. manner | j. way |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Over 50 years
2. Wednesday
3. Diplomatic and economic ties
4. Cut them loose
5. The Vatican
6. Reset relations
7. US citizens
8. 54 years
9. Raul Castro (Cuba's President)
10. A brighter one

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. c 2. a 3. a 4. b 5. d 6. b 7. a 8. c 9. d 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)