

Technology goods to become cheaper

30th July, 2015



Creative Commons
via Ervins Strauhmanis on flickr.com

There is a new global trade agreement that will make IT products cheaper. More than 50 countries agreed to end tariffs and import duties on over 200 IT products. All 28 countries from the

European Union signed, as well as China, Japan, South Korea, the U.S. and others. The deal was signed at a World Trade Organization meeting in Geneva. It will affect a wide variety of products, including smartphones, digital cameras, ink cartridges, video game consoles and even telecommunications satellites. Import duties will be completely removed from the selected IT products in the next four years. The deal applies to \$1.3 trillion worth of global trade. This is about 7 per cent of all world trade.

Many people believe the deal will be good for the world. The EU Trade Commissioner, Cecilia Malmström, said: "This is a great deal for consumers, and for companies big and small. We've worked hard [on] this compromise between different countries to find the best solutions." She added: "This deal will cut costs for consumers and business - in particular, for smaller firms, which have been hit especially hard...in the past." Ms Malmström hopes more countries will sign up to the deal in the next few years. She said: "It clearly shows that countries around the world can work together to achieve solutions that benefit everyone. I [expect to see] other countries joining soon."

Sources: *PC World* / *NY Times* / *the inquirer.net*

Writing

IT should be taught in schools from elementary level. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

global / trade / import / deal / signed / ink cartridges / satellites / next four years / consumers / compromise / solutions / costs / achieve / solutions / benefit / everyone

True / False

- Over 50 countries signed up to a new deal on IT products. T / F
- Only half of countries in Europe signed up. T / F
- The countries who signed will remove import duties within four years. T / F
- The new deal represents about 7% of all world trade. T / F
- The EU Trade Commissioner said the deal was bad for smaller firms. T / F
- The commissioner said countries worked hard on compromises. T / F
- The commissioner does not want more countries to sign the deal. T / F
- The commissioner said the solutions will not benefit everyone. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. agreement | a. relates |
| 2. duties | b. totally |
| 3. variety | c. think |
| 4. completely | d. range |
| 5. applies | e. particularly |
| 6. believe | f. deal |
| 7. solutions | g. signing up |
| 8. especially | h. answers |
| 9. achieve | i. taxes |
| 10. joining | j. reach |

Discussion – Student A

- How important is technology?
- How has technology changed in the past 20 years?
- How happy are you that IT products will be cheaper?
- What is your favourite piece of technology (and why)?
- What are the good and bad things about electronic shops?
- What would your life be like without your gadgets?
- How will the new agreement change your life?
- What is your favourite tech company (and why)?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. There is a new global | a. achieve solutions |
| 2. 50 countries agreed to end tariffs | b. countries joining soon |
| 3. It will affect a wide | c. of all world trade |
| 4. Import duties will be | d. costs for consumers |
| 5. This is about 7 per cent | e. and import duties |
| 6. We've worked hard | f. trade agreement |
| 7. This deal will cut | g. up to the deal |
| 8. more countries will sign | h. completely removed |
| 9. work together to | i. on this compromise |
| 10. I expect to see other | j. variety of products |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of the price of technology products?
- What tech company would you like to work for?
- What technology do you dislike?
- What is the best invention ever?
- Should all children study IT in schools?
- What are the bad things about technology?
- What will technology be like in 20 years from now?
- What questions would you like to ask the WTO?

Spelling

- a new global trade tmeaeengr
- tariffs and import etidus
- a wide itvarye of products
- telecommunications ssitltae
- loptmyelec removed
- The deal applies to \$1.3 oliilrnt
- a great deal for mosnecrsu
- worked hard on this roscpoemmi
- in raurptailc
- hit elyailecsp hard
- work together to achieve tnousiols
- eefnitb everyone

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. d	4. b	5. a
6. c	7. h	8. e	9. j	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Game consoles

You think game consoles are the best digital devices. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good with their devices. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): printers, digital cameras or wireless headphones.

Role B – Printers

You think printers are the best digital devices. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good with their devices. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): game consoles, digital cameras or wireless headphones.

Role C – Digital cameras

You think digital cameras are the best digital devices. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good with their devices. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): printers, game consoles or wireless headphones.

Role D – Wireless headphones

You think wireless headphones are the best digital devices. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good with their devices. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): printers, digital cameras or game consoles.

Speaking – Devices

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| • mobile phone | • digital camera |
| • game console | • electronic dictionary |
| • printer | • iPad |
| • laptop computer | • wireless headphones |

Answers – True False

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

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.