

## USA and Russia in election hacking tit-for-tat

1st January, 2017



A new crisis is looming between the USA and Russia. It has been brewing since the U.S. Presidential Election in November amid accusations by Hillary Clinton's team of Russian

interference in the electoral process. U.S. officials claimed that Russian intelligence agencies hacked into and stole e-mails from the servers of Ms Clinton's party and released them on the Wikileaks website. The officials said Russian President Vladimir Putin wanted to influence American voters into voting for President-elect Donald Trump. President Barack Obama vowed to take action over the allegations and has expelled 35 Russian diplomats from Washington. He has also shut down two Russian intelligence compounds in the U.S.

Russia has responded angrily to the expulsions and has denied any involvement in the alleged hacking. It called the U.S. actions "ungrounded". It is likely there will be a tit-for-tat response from Russia. Moscow has promised an "appropriate response" and "counter-measures". Any retaliation, however, may be less severe due to the upcoming inauguration of Mr Trump as President. A Russian spokesman said: "These decisions were taken by President Obama, but Trump will become the head of state in three weeks' time. Of course, this factor will certainly be taken into account one way or another." Mr Trump seeks to put US-Russian relations on a better footing and has a good relationship with Mr Putin.

Sources: [washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com) / [bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com) / [foxnews.com](http://www.foxnews.com)

## Writing

Hacking is one of the biggest dangers in the world today. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

crisis / brewing / election / process / intelligence agencies / influence / allegations / angrily / hacking / tit-for-tat / response / severe / decisions / factor / relations

## True / False

- A crisis has been brewing between the USA and Russia for over a year. T / F
- There is a tit-for-tat concerning Hillary Clinton's e-mail being hacked. T / F
- The e-mails were posted on the website Wikipedia. T / F
- The USA expelled two Russian diplomats and closed 35 Russian offices. T / F
- Russia called the U.S. allegations "unearthed". T / F
- Russia has promised to respond with counter-measures. T / F
- Russian retaliation might be toned down because of Donald Trump. T / F
- Donald Trump wants to put US-Russian relations on a good footing. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. <b>crisis</b>       | a. supposed        |
| 2. <b>accusations</b>  | b. affect          |
| 3. <b>interference</b> | c. thrown out      |
| 4. <b>influence</b>    | d. repudiated      |
| 5. <b>expelled</b>     | e. charges         |
| 6. <b>denied</b>       | f. revenge         |
| 7. <b>alleged</b>      | g. unquestionably  |
| 8. <b>retaliation</b>  | h. critical period |
| 9. <b>certainly</b>    | i. basis           |
| 10. <b>footing</b>     | j. meddling        |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- Why is the USA angry?
- Why is Russia angry?
- How important is it for the USA and Russia to have good relations?
- What do you believe about the alleged hacking?
- How dangerous is spying and hacking?
- How serious is the expulsion of 35 Russian diplomats?
- Why does Russia have intelligence compounds in the USA?

# BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. A new crisis is                          | a. from the servers           |
| 2. It has been brewing since the            | b. state                      |
| 3. hacked into and stole e-mails            | c. compounds                  |
| 4. Obama vowed to take action               | d. angrily to the expulsions  |
| 5. shut down two Russian intelligence       | e. looming                    |
| 6. Russia has responded                     | f. response from Russia       |
| 7. denied any involvement                   | g. over the allegations       |
| 8. It is likely there will be a tit-for-tat | h. footing                    |
| 9. head of                                  | i. in the alleged hacking     |
| 10. put US-Russian relations on a better    | j. U.S. presidential election |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about countries hacking each other?
- How far could the tit-for-tat go?
- What advice do you have for Barack Obama?
- What advice do you have for Vladimir Putin?
- What counter-measures might Russia take?
- What will relations be like in a year's time?
- What will US-Russian relations be like under President Trump?
- What questions would you like to ask presidents Obama and Putin?

## Spelling

- amid cscaaousnti by Hillary Clinton's team
- interference in the ctrlaleeo process
- Russian intelligence eiagcsen
- wanted to einelnfcu American voters
- expelled 35 Russian mpatdoisl
- shut down two Russian intelligence posdcounm
- Russia has eorddnspe angrily
- ieeddn any involvement
- Moscow has promised an "appropriate epsonesr"
- may be less everes
- be taken into aoctcun one way or another
- put US-Russian relations on a better oingtfo

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Same Language

You think sharing the same language is best to help good relations between countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): trade, leaders being friends or being neighbours.

### Role B – Trade

You think trade is best to help good relations between countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): same language, leaders being friends or being neighbours.

### Role C – Leaders Are Friends

You think leaders being friends is best to help good relations between countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): trade, same language or being neighbours.

### Role D – Being Neighbours

You think being neighbours is best to help good relations between countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): trade, leaders being friends or same language.

## Speaking – Good relations

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that help good relations between countries at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| • same language | • developmental aid   |
| • same religion | • being neighbours    |
| • trade         | • cultural exchanges  |
| • sporting ties | • leaders are friends |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.