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**Level 0 – 30th April 2026**

## **Global military spending hits record \$2.9 trillion**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260430-global-military-spending-0.html>

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**Please try Levels 1, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260430-global-military-spending-0.html>

Military spending hit a record in 2025. A peace institute said global defence spending was nearly \$2.9 trillion last year. Spending has gone up for eleven years in a row. Europe's defence spending increased by 14 per cent. The Asia-Oceania region increased its spending by 8.1 per cent. The USA is the biggest spender.

There are several reasons for the record levels of spending. One reason is that NATO countries met their spending targets. Another reason is the Russia-Ukraine war. Russia spent around 7.5 per cent of its GDP. Ukraine spent 40 per cent. The peace institute said countries are spending more because of today's wars.

Sources: <https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2026/04/27/global-military-spending-surges-and-reaches-record-high/>  
<https://edition.cnn.com/2026/04/27/world/world-military-spending-report-sipri-intl-hnk-ml>  
<https://www.dw.com/en/sipri-record-arms-spending-again/a-76901397>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260430-global-military-spending-0.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. military spending hit a | a. spending        |
| 2. a peace                 | b. by 8.1 per cent |
| 3. spending has            | c. record in 2025  |
| 4. eleven years in         | d. gone up         |
| 5. Europe's defence        | e. institute       |
| 6. the Asia-Oceania        | f. spender         |
| 7. increased its spending  | g. a row           |
| 8. the USA is the biggest  | h. region          |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                               |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. there are several          | a. more               |
| 2. record levels              | b. Russia-Ukraine war |
| 3. NATO countries met their   | c. reasons            |
| 4. Another reason is the      | d. GDP                |
| 5. around 7.5 per cent of its | e. wars               |
| 6. peace                      | f. spending targets   |
| 7. countries are spending     | g. of spending        |
| 8. because of today's         | h. institute          |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260430-global-military-spending-0.html>

Military spending (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in 2025. A peace institute said global defence (2) \_\_\_\_\_ \$2.9 trillion last year. Spending (3) \_\_\_\_\_ for eleven years (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Europe's defence spending increased by 14 per cent. The Asia-Oceania (5) \_\_\_\_\_ spending by 8.1 per cent. The USA is (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

There are (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the record levels of spending. One (8) \_\_\_\_\_ NATO countries met (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Another reason is the Russia-Ukraine war. (10) \_\_\_\_\_ 7.5 per cent of its GDP. Ukraine spent 40 per cent. The (11) \_\_\_\_\_ countries are spending more because (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260430-global-military-spending-0.html>

Military spending hit a record in 2025. A peace institute said global defence spending was nearly \$2.9 trillion last year. Spending has gone up for eleven years in a row. Europe's defence spending increased by 14 percent. The Asia-Oceania region increased its spending by 8.1 percent. The USA is the biggest spender. There are several reasons for the record levels of spending. One reason is that NATO countries met their spending targets. Another reason is the Russia-Ukraine war. Russia spent around 7.5 percent of its GDP. Ukraine spent 40 percent. The peace institute said countries are spending more because of today's wars.

# MILITARY SPENDING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260430-global-military-spending-0.html>

Write five GOOD questions about military spending 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.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

*Global military spending hits record \$2.9 trillion – 30th April 2026*  
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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) \_\_\_\_\_

