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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 30/01/13

Mega file-sharing site launched by Kim Dotcom

Recently Kim Dotcom, real name Kim Schmitz, returned to the world stage to launch his new file-sharing site 'Mega'. Within 24 hours of the new website's launch it had received more than one million hits! Mr Dotcom's new cloud service 'Mega.co.nz' says, "We promise. We deliver. Bigger – Better – Stronger – Faster - Safer."

The new webpage follows last year's raid by New Zealand police at Mr Dotcom's mansion where he was arrested. His webpage Megaupload was shut down. US law enforcement agencies forced its closure, saying many users of Megaupload were engaged in pirating content and illegally sharing it. All of which Mr Dotcom denied.

At a lavish launch party for 'Mega' at Mr Dotcom's New Zealand mansion he made light of the arrest by re-enacting the raid on his mansion by New Zealand authorities with a helicopter and actors dressed as armed police.

Mr Dotcom says the difference between his new webpage and his previous one is that Mega is a different beast to Megaupload, as the new site enables users to control exactly which users can access uploaded files, in contrast to its predecessor, which allowed users to search files, some of which contained copyrighted content allegedly without permission.

The Motion Picture Association of America which filed complaints about the alleged copyright infringement by Megaupload was not impressed with the new website.

Mr Dotcom continues to rebuff the accusations and is fighting a legal battle to stay in New Zealand.

SPEAKING

Think of three different things you about Kim Dotcom or Megaupload. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Name the man.
- 2) What country does this man live in?
- 3) Name the new webpage.
- 4) Name the former webpage.
- 5) Name the association.

Student B questions

- 1) Where was the launch party held?
- 2) What happened at the launch party?
- 3) What is the difference between the new webpage and the old one?
- 4) How many hits did the new webpage receive in the first 24 hours?
- 5) Who continues to rebuff what?

Category: Technology / Webpage - Mega / Kim Dotcom

Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

Mega file-sharing site launched by Kim Dotcom – 30th January 2013

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Megaupload**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

Mega file-sharing launched by Kim Dotcom

- *In pairs* choose three things from the article.

Write them below.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three similar ideas of your own. Discuss together.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs, compare the differences between Megaupload and Mega - **or** - Think of three positive and negative things about the new Mega file-sharing site. Write down your thoughts.

The teacher will choose some students to read out their work to the class.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Did you ever visit Megaupload?
- 3) Did you ever download anything from Megaupload?
- 4) Did your friends use Megaupload?
- 5) Why is Hollywood so concerned about Mr Dotcom?
- 6) Is Mr Dotcom innocent of the accusations against him?
- 7) Have you visited the new Mega site?
- 8) What sorts of things are offered on the new Mega site?
- 9) Does the new Mega site offer something - bigger - better - stronger - faster - safer?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the ABC New Zealand Auckland TV studio. Today's interview is about: *Mega file-sharing launched by Kim Dotcom.*

- 1) Kim Dotcom.
- 2) Someone who downloads illegally copied movies.
- 3) A Hollywood movie spokesperson.
- 4) A New Zealand police spokesperson.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. You are visiting an electronics fair. You are both illegal downloaders. Start a conversation about the new Mega site. *5 mins.*

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 3

In pairs. Discuss 'the Hollywood side' of the case against Mr Dotcom. *5 mins.*

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

Mega file-sharing site created by Mr Dotcom

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Is the freedom of the internet under threat from Hollywood and the American government?
- 3) Did the New Zealand police overreact?
- 4) Will the new Mega website be popular?
- 5) Does Hollywood need to change and adapt to the new technologies?
- 6) Who are Mr Dotcom's rivals?
- 7) Should the seized data from Megaupload be returned to its owners?
- 8) Is Mr Dotcom at war with Hollywood?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson in English for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Mega file-sharing site launched by Kim Dotcom

Recently Kim Dotcom, real name Kim Schmitz, returned to the world stage to (1)___ his new (2)___ site 'Mega'. Within 24 hours of the new website's launch it had received more than one million (3)___! Mr Dotcom's new (4)___ 'Mega.co.nz' says, "We promise. We deliver. Bigger – Better – Stronger – Faster – Safer."

The new (5)___ follows last year's (6)___ by New Zealand authorities at Mr Dotcom's mansion where he was arrested. His webpage Megaupload was shut down. US law enforcement agencies forced its closure, saying many users of Megaupload were engaged in (7)___ content and (8)___ sharing it. All of which Mr Dotcom denied.

webpage / launch / raid / illegally / pirating / cloud service / file-sharing / hits

At a (1)___ launch party for 'Mega' at Mr Dotcom's New Zealand mansion he made light of the arrest by re-enacting the raid on his (2)___ by New Zealand police with a helicopter and actors dressed as armed police.

Mr Dotcom says the difference between his new webpage and his (3)___ one is that Mega is a different beast to Megaupload, as the new site enables users to control exactly which users can access uploaded files, in contrast to its (4)___, which allowed users to search files, some of which contained copyrighted content allegedly without permission.

The Motion Picture Association of America which filed complaints about the alleged (5)___ (6)___ by Megaupload was not impressed with the new website.

Mr Dotcom continues to (7)___ the (8)___ and is fighting a legal battle to stay in New Zealand.

Infringement / accusations / predecessor / copyright / rebuff / mansion / lavish / previous

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Mega file-sharing site launched by Kim Dotcom

Recently Kim Dotcom, real name Kim Schmitz, returned to the world stage to launch his new file-sharing site 'Mega'. Within 24 hours (1)___ the new website's launch it had received more than one million hits! Mr Dotcom's new cloud service 'Mega.co.nz' says, "(2)___ promise. We deliver. Bigger – Better – Stronger – Faster – Safer."

The new webpage follows last year's raid (3)___ New Zealand authorities (4)___ Mr Dotcom's mansion where (5)___ was arrested. His webpage Megaupload was shut down. US law enforcement agencies forced (6)___ closure, saying many users of Megaupload were engaged (7)___ pirating content and illegally sharing (8)___ . All of which Mr Dotcom denied.

it / of / we / by / in / its / at / he

At a lavish launch party for 'Mega' at Mr Dotcom's New Zealand mansion he made light of the arrest by re-enacting the raid on (1)___ mansion by New Zealand police with a helicopter and actors dressed as armed police.

Mr Dotcom says (2)___ difference between his new webpage (3)___ his previous one is (4)___ Mega is a different beast to Megaupload, as the new site enables users to control exactly (5)___ users (6)___ access uploaded files, in contrast to its predecessor, which allowed users to search files, some of which contained copyrighted content allegedly without permission.

The Motion Picture Association of America which filed complaints (7)___ the alleged copyright infringement by Megaupload was not impressed (8)___ the new website.

Mr Dotcom continues to rebuff the accusations and is fighting a legal battle to stay in New Zealand.

which / with / about / that / his / the / can / and

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Mega file-sharing site launched by Kim Dotcom

_____, real name Kim Schmitz, returned to the world stage to launch his new _____ 'Mega'. Within 24 hours of the new websites launch it had received more than one million hits! Mr Dotcom's new cloud service 'Mega.co.nz' says, "We promise. We deliver. _____ - Faster - Safer."

The new webpage follows last year's raid by New Zealand authorities at Mr Dotcom's mansion where he was arrested. His _____ was shut down. US law enforcement agencies forced its closure, saying many users of Megaupload were engaged _____ and illegally sharing it. All of which Mr Dotcom denied.

At _____ for 'Mega' at Mr Dotcom's New Zealand mansion he made light of the arrest by re-enacting the raid on his mansion by New Zealand police with a helicopter and actors dressed as armed police.

Mr Dotcom says the difference between his new webpage and his previous one is that Mega is _____ Megaupload, as the new site enables users to control exactly which users can access uploaded files, in contrast _____, which allowed users to search files, some of which contained copyrighted content allegedly without permission.

The _____ of America which filed complaints about the alleged copyright infringement by Megaupload was not impressed with the new website. Mr Dotcom continues to rebuff the accusations and is fighting a legal battle to _____.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs*, in columns list as many words about **Kim Dotcom** as you can! *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Kim Dotcom _____
- 2) Mega _____
- 3) I like to download _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Mega file-sharing site launched by Kim Dotcom**. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) launch
- 2) file-sharing
- 3) hits
- 4) cloud service
- 5) webpage
- 6) raid
- 7) pirating
- 8) illegally

ANSWERS

- 1) lavish
- 2) mansion
- 3) previous
- 4) predecessor
- 5) copyright
- 6) infringement
- 7) rebuff
- 8) accusations

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) launch
- 2) rebuff
- 3) mansion
- 4) accusations
- 5) within
- 6) enforcement
- 7) agencies
- 8) illegally
- 9) lavish
- 10) re-enacting

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) difference
- 12) previous
- 13) exactly
- 14) which
- 15) beast
- 16) access
- 17) contrast
- 18) predecessor
- 19) copyrighted
- 20) permission

Mega file-sharing site launched by Kim Dotcom – *30th January 2013*