

# www.newsflashenglish.com

The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 15/05/17

## NHS in the UK held to ransom by ransomware

Last week, in the UK, the NHS (National Health Service) was held to ransom by malware stolen from the NSA (National Security Agency), in America. The Nissan car plant in Sunderland was also hit by the hackers.

The virus was unleashed across the world and spread at unprecedented speed. So far, more than 99 countries have been affected, with more than 57,000 victims. The virus, known as WannaCry, and variants of that name, has spread itself across the world, using email.

The ransomware software encrypts files. It then asks for a digital ransom of US\$300, to be paid by Bitcoin, before control is safely returned.

The malware attack crippled the NHS across the UK, causing many hospitals to cancel operations. Patients had to be moved and A&E patients had to be turned away.

One of the main reasons why the NHS was hit so badly, is because of the lack of IT investment. Another reason is because many of the computers used in the NHS, still use Windows XP. This operating system Microsoft stopped updating in 2015, so is easily hacked.

The malware attack affected many countries, including Russia, Spain, and Germany. The Russian government, Russian banks, Telefonica in Spain, and German railways, were all affected, as were big companies, like FedEx. By Friday evening, the attack had spread to the USA and South America.

Staff at the affected companies were asked to turn off their computers or cut off the internet. Many companies are now urgently reviewing their IT systems. Everyone should be worried, as the ransomware is now affecting more sophisticated security operations. People need to update their computers with up-to-date malware protection.

### SPEAKING – WARM UP

What is a virus? What is ransomware? Has your computer ever suffered a serious malware attack? 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) What is malware?
- 2) What is Bitcoin?
- 3) What is ransomware?
- 4) What is WannaCry?
- 5) What does 'NHS' and 'NSA' mean?

#### Student B questions

- 1) Name three countries that were affected by the attack.
- 2) Why was the NHS held to ransom so easily?
- 3) What happened in the NHS hospitals when the virus attack started?
- 4) What do people need to do?
- 5) Name the old operating system.

**Category: Technology / Cyber Attack / UK**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

## NHS in the UK held to ransom by ransomware – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words about **'hackers'**. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* – Think of three things you know about this hacking story that affected many companies and organisations in many parts of the world. What is the latest on this story?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Think of three popular malware programmes. Write them below. Which is better? Discuss!

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

### SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 3

*In pairs* - *Student A* is a reporter. *Student B* is a doctor/nurse in the A&E in a UK hospital. The reporter is finding out what happened when the ransomware attack started and what did the hospital do? *3 mins.*

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) Who is behind the NHS attack?
- 2) What is the latest on this story?
- 3) Has your computer ever been hacked?
- 4) Why did this ransomware attack take place?
- 5) Why were so many computers at the NHS infected and held to ransom?
- 6) Would you pay US\$300 to the hackers to unencrypt your pc if you were attacked?
- 7) What should we do to protect ourselves from hackers?
- 8) What would you do if your pc was taken out this evening?
- 9) While Microsoft has now updated Windows XP with an emergency patch, should they not continue to update Windows XP? Explain.
- 10) Have the culprits behind this ransomware attack been caught?

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *NHS in the UK held to ransom by ransomware.*

- 1) A doctor/nurse at a hospital when the ransomware attack started.
- 2) A patient who was at a hospital when the ransomware started.
- 3) A hacker.
- 4) An IT tech expert.

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

### SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

*In pairs* – Think of five advantages and five disadvantages of using Windows 10, rather than Windows XP. Talk about them. *3 mins.*

### SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

*Allow 5-10 minutes* – As a class.

|   |
|---|
| <b>NHS in the UK held to ransom by ransomware</b> |
|---|

**The teacher** can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) Do you back up your computer? When did you last do it?
- 2) Has your company been affected by hackers and ransomware?
- 3) Do you still use Windows XP? Explain.
- 4) Why are so many companies still using Windows XP?
- 5) Will the hospitals and companies affected by the ransomware be able to unlock their files?
- 6) Do you think the companies affected by the attacking malware will pay the ransomware fee?
- 7) Surely, the authorities like GCHQ and the NSA, who created this mess in the first place, should step in to find these hackers?
- 8) Is the American government responsible for creating this mess?
- 9) What malware protection do you use?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

**GAP FILL: READING**

**NHS in the UK held to ransom by ransomware**

Last week, in the UK, the NHS (National Health Service) was held to (1)\_\_\_ by (2)\_\_\_ stolen from the NSA (National Security Agency), in America. The Nissan car plant in Sunderland was also hit by the (3)\_\_\_.

The virus was unleashed across the world and (4)\_\_\_ at unprecedented speed. So far, more than 99 countries have been affected, with more than 57,000 victims. The (5)\_\_\_, known as WannaCry, and variants of that name, has spread itself across the world, using email.

The (6)\_\_\_ software encrypts files. It then asks for a digital ransom of US\$300, to be paid by Bitcoin, before control is safely returned.

The malware attack crippled the NHS across the UK, causing many hospitals to (7)\_\_\_ operations. Patients had to be moved and A&E (8)\_\_\_ had to be turned away.

***virus / patients / spread / malware / hackers / ransom / ransomware / cancel***

One of the (1)\_\_\_ reasons why the NHS was hit so badly, is because of the (2)\_\_\_ of IT (3)\_\_\_ . Another reason is because many of the computers used in the NHS, still use Windows XP. This operating (4)\_\_\_ Microsoft stopped updating in 2015, so is (5)\_\_\_ hacked.

The malware attack affected many countries, including Russia, Spain, and Germany. The Russian government, Russian banks, Telefonica in Spain, and German railways, were all affected, as were big companies, like FedEx. By Friday evening, the (6)\_\_\_ had spread to the USA and South America.

(7)\_\_\_ at the affected companies were asked to turn off their computers or cut off the internet. Many companies are now (8)\_\_\_ reviewing their IT systems.

***lack / attack / system / urgently / easily / main / staff / investment***

**GAP FILL: GRAMMAR**

**NHS in the UK held to ransom by ransomware**

Last week, in the UK, the NHS (National Health Service) was held to ransom by malware stolen from the NSA (National Security Agency), in America. The Nissan car plant in Sunderland was (1)\_\_\_ hit by the hackers.

The virus was unleashed across the world and spread at unprecedented speed. So far, (2)\_\_\_ than 99 countries have been affected, (3)\_\_\_ more (4)\_\_\_ 57,000 victims. The virus, known as WannaCry, and variants of (5)\_\_\_ name, has spread itself across the world, using email.

The ransomware software encrypts files. It (6)\_\_\_ asks (7)\_\_\_ a digital ransom of US\$300, to be paid by Bitcoin, before control is safely returned.

The malware attack crippled the NHS across the UK, causing (8)\_\_\_ hospitals to cancel operations. Patients had to be moved and A&E patients had to be turned away.

***many / more / then / than / with / also / that / for***

One of the main reasons (1)\_\_\_ the NHS was hit so badly, is because of the lack of IT investment. Another reason is because many (2)\_\_\_ the computers used in the NHS, still use Windows XP. This operating system Microsoft stopped updating (3)\_\_\_ 2015, (4)\_\_\_ is easily hacked.

The malware attack affected many countries, including Russia, Spain, and Germany. The Russian government, Russian banks, Telefonica in Spain, and German railways, were all affected, (5)\_\_\_ were big companies, like FedEx. (6)\_\_\_ Friday evening, the attack had spread to the USA and South America.

Staff (7)\_\_\_ the affected companies were asked to turn off their computers (8)\_\_\_ cut off the internet. Many companies are now urgently reviewing their IT systems.

***or / by / as / so / of / in / at / why***

## NHS in the UK held to ransom by ransomware – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017



### GAP FILL: LISTENING

#### NHS in the UK held to ransom by ransomware

Last week, in the UK, the NHS (National Health Service) was held to ransom by malware stolen from the NSA (\_\_\_\_\_), in America. The Nissan car plant in Sunderland was also hit by the hackers. The virus was unleashed across the world and spread at \_\_\_\_\_. So far, more than 99 countries have been affected, with more than 57,000 victims. The virus, known as WannaCry, and \_\_\_\_\_, has spread itself across the world, using email.

The ransomware software encrypts files. It then asks for a digital ransom of US\$300, to be paid by Bitcoin, before control is safely returned. The malware attack crippled the NHS across the UK, causing many hospitals to cancel operations. Patients had to be moved and A&E patients had \_\_\_\_\_.

One of the main reasons why the NHS was hit so badly, is because of the lack \_\_\_\_\_. Another reason is because many of the computers used in the NHS, still use Windows XP. This operating system Microsoft stopped updating in 2015, \_\_\_\_\_.

The malware attack affected many countries, including Russia, Spain, and Germany. \_\_\_\_\_/ Russian banks, Telefonica in Spain, and German railways, were all affected, as were big companies, like FedEx. By Friday evening, \_\_\_\_\_ to the USA and South America.

Staff at the affected companies were asked to turn off their computers or cut off the internet. Many companies are now \_\_\_\_\_ their IT systems. Everyone should be worried, as the ransomware is now affecting more sophisticated security operations. People need to update their computers with up-to-date \_\_\_\_\_.

**www.newsflashenglish.com**

Copyright D. J. Robinson 2017 (V2)

### WRITING/SPELLING

#### WRITING / SPEAKING

**1) On the board** - In pairs/As a class, list **10 different ways to protect your pc from hackers.** Explain what they all do, etc. Which is best? Why? *Five minutes. Talk about each of them.*

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

- 1) The malware \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Ransomware \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) The hackers \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Write down 50 words about: *NHS in the UK held to ransom by ransomware.*** Your words can be read out in class.

**4) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: ***NHS in the UK held to ransom by ransomware.***

#### SPELLING

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

- 1) ransom
- 2) malware
- 3) operations
- 4) investment
- 5) unleashed
- 6) virus
- 7) hackers
- 8) unprecedented
- 9) lack
- 10) main

#### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**

**Good = 15**

**Very good = 18**

**Excellent = 20**

- 11) easily
- 12) spread
- 13) urgently
- 14) everyone
- 15) sophisticated
- 16) protection
- 17) ransomware
- 18) operations
- 19) variants
- 20) victims

NHS in the UK held to ransom by ransomware – *20<sup>th</sup> May 2017*