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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 30/04/13

## North Korea – What next?

Today let's talk about North Korea. Not a week goes by without another horror story emerging from the country where, it appears, missiles are more important than people. In fact, unknown numbers in North Korea have starved to death or have been sent to die in concentration camps. They still are!

Buying missiles to aim at American, Japanese or South Korean territory is, allegedly, far more important than feeding its population or seeing economic development. The question is why?

The answer is to prop up the Stalinist regime run currently by its new leader Kim Jong-un. Is this man merely a puppet of the military? Why has he gone down the road of confrontation rather than economic and political restructuring? Why does he not engage with South Korea? Why not unify both Koreas? What is he frightened of?

We have all heard of the nuclear missiles being pointed at Japan and the American territory of Guam. China, that is an ally of North Korea, is sitting nervously in the middle of regional diplomacy. It feeds and supplies North Korea. It signed up to U.N. sanctions. Whether further sanctions will be applied by China and the U.N. only time will tell.

What is patently obvious is there is a lot of hot air uttered by all sides over the missile threat from North Korea that could trigger nuclear retaliation and who knows what? South Koreans, it appears, are fed up with it all.

People living outside North Korea have little idea of just how bad the situation is there. North Koreans aren't allowed to watch foreign TV. Most can't talk to foreigners and anyone visiting North Korea is followed by government minders. Nice!

### SPEAKING

Think of three things you know about North Korea. 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 three countries.
- 2) What does U.N. stand for?
- 3) Who is the leader of North Korea?
- 4) Who might follow you on holiday?
- 5) Who is fed up?

#### Student B questions

- 1) What does China do?
- 2) Which is more important – missiles or feeding people?
- 3) What is a concentration camp?
- 4) What types of missiles are mentioned?
- 5) What type of regime is it?

**Category: Asia / North Korea / The Future**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

**WRITING / SPEAKING**

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

**WRITING / SPEAKING**

**North Korea – What next?** - *In pairs* choose three things from the article.

Write them below.

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

**Add** three similar ideas of your own about the subject. Discuss together.

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

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

**WRITING / SPEAKING**

Spend two minutes writing about either :

- 1) What you might see in North Korea?
- 2) What the Americans/South Koreans / Russians/Chinese (choose one) think of the North Korean situation?

Read your work to your partner/class. *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) Will you be visiting North Korea soon?
- 3) Do you think North and South Korea will ever unify?
- 4) Why is the North Korean regime more interested in missiles than its people's welfare?
- 5) Is Kim Jong-un merely a puppet of the military?
- 6) Why has Kim Jong-un gone down the road of confrontation rather than unification?
- 7) What is the North Korean leader frightened of?
- 8) Have you learnt anything in today's lesson?

**SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1**

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *BBC World News TV* studio. Today's interview is: 'North Korea'.

- 1) A backpacker just back from North Korea.
- 2) A U.N. spokesperson.
- 3) Kim Jong-un.
- 4) A North Korean defector.

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

**SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2**

*In pairs.* You are in a pub in Seoul, South Korea. Start a conversation about: '*North Korea – What next? 5 mins.*

**SPEAKING - GAME**

*Groups – 20 things you might see in North Korea. 5 mins.*

*The teacher* will choose some groups to hear their findings in front of the class.

**SPEAKING - DISCUSSION**

*Allow 10 minutes – As a class.*

<i>Discuss the following...</i> North Korea – The future
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*The teacher* can moderate the session.

**DISCUSSION**

**Student B questions**

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 3) Do you think the North Korean leader speaks English?
- 4) Will North Korea fire a nuclear missile?
- 5) Could a nuclear zone cloud the North Korean peninsula in the future?
- 6) How do South Koreans view the North Korean ongoing threat?
- 7) Would you like to be followed all the time when you go on holiday?
- 8) What is the U.N. doing about the North Korean situation?
- 9) What is China doing in all this?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

**GAP FILL: READING**

**North Korea – What next?**

Today let's talk about North Korea. Not a week goes by without another horror story emerging from the country where, it appears, (1)\_\_\_ are more important than people. In fact, (2)\_\_\_ numbers in North Korea have starved to death or have been sent to die in concentration camps. They still are!

Buying missiles to aim at American, Japanese or South Korean (3)\_\_\_ is, allegedly, far more important than feeding its population or seeing economic development. The question is why?

The answer is to (4)\_\_\_ the Stalinist (5)\_\_\_ run currently by its new leader Kim Jong-un. Is this man merely a (6)\_\_\_ of the military? Why has he gone down the road of (7)\_\_\_ rather than economic and political restructuring? Why does he not engage with South Korea? Why not (8)\_\_\_ both Koreas? What is he frightened of?

***confrontation / prop up / unknown / regime / puppet / missiles / unify / territory***

We have all heard of the nuclear missiles being pointed at Japan and the American territory of Guam. China, that is an (1)\_\_\_ of North Korea, is sitting (2)\_\_\_ in the middle of (3)\_\_\_ diplomacy. It feeds and supplies North Korea. It signed up to U.N. (4)\_\_\_ . Whether further sanctions will be applied by China and the U.N. only time will tell.

What is patently (5)\_\_\_ is there is a lot of hot air uttered by all sides over the missile threat from North Korea that could (6)\_\_\_ nuclear (7)\_\_\_ and who knows what? South Koreans, it appears, are fed up with it all.

People living outside North Korea have little idea of just how bad the situation is there. North Koreans aren't allowed to watch foreign TV. Most can't talk to foreigners and anyone visiting North Korea is followed by government (8)\_\_\_ . Nice!

***minders / regional / trigger / ally / sanctions / retaliation / obvious / nervously***

**GAP FILL: GRAMMAR**

**North Korea – What next?**

Today let's talk about North Korea. Not a week goes by without another horror story emerging from (1)\_\_\_ country where, it appears, missiles are more important than people. In fact, unknown numbers in North Korea have starved to death (2)\_\_\_ have been sent to die in concentration camps. They still are!

Buying missiles to aim (3)\_\_\_ American, Japanese or South Korean territory is, allegedly, far more important than feeding its population or seeing economic development. The question is why?

The answer is to prop up the Stalinist regime run currently (4)\_\_\_ its new leader Kim Jong-un. Is this man merely a puppet of the military? (5)\_\_\_ has (6)\_\_\_ gone down the road of confrontation rather than economic (7)\_\_\_ political restructuring? Why does he not engage with South Korea? Why not unify both Koreas? What is he frightened (8)\_\_\_?

***why / the / and / he / of / at / by / or /***

We have all heard of the nuclear missiles being pointed at Japan and the American territory of Guam. China, that is an ally of North Korea, is sitting nervously in the middle of regional diplomacy. It feeds and supplies North Korea. It signed up to U.N. sanctions. Whether further sanctions will be applied by China and the U.N. (1)\_\_\_ time will tell.

(2)\_\_\_ is patently obvious is there is a lot of hot air uttered by all sides (3)\_\_\_ the missile threat from North Korea (4)\_\_\_ (5)\_\_\_ trigger nuclear retaliation and who knows what? South Koreans, it appears, are fed up with it all.

People living outside North Korea have little idea of (6)\_\_\_ how bad the situation is (7)\_\_\_ . North Koreans aren't allowed to watch foreign TV. (8)\_\_\_ can't talk to foreigners and anyone visiting North Korea is followed by government minders. Nice!

***just / there / only / most / that / what / could / over***

### GAP FILL: LISTENING

#### North Korea – What next?

Today let's talk about North Korea. Not a week goes by without \_\_\_\_\_ emerging from the country where, it appears, missiles are more important than people. In fact, unknown numbers in North Korea have starved to death or have been sent to die in \_\_\_\_\_. They still are!

Buying missiles to aim at American, Japanese or South Korean territory is, allegedly, far more important than feeding its population or seeing \_\_\_\_\_. The question is why?

The answer is to prop up the Stalinist regime run currently by its new leader Kim Jong-un. Is this man merely a \_\_\_\_\_? Why has he gone down the road of confrontation rather than economic and political restructuring? Why does he not engage with South Korea? Why not unify both Koreas? What \_\_\_\_\_?

We have all heard of the nuclear missiles being pointed at Japan and the American territory of Guam. China, that is an ally of North Korea, is sitting nervously in the middle of regional diplomacy. It \_\_\_\_\_ North Korea. It signed up to U.N. sanctions. Whether further sanctions will be applied by China and the U.N. only time will tell.

What is \_\_\_\_\_ there is a lot of hot air uttered by all sides over the missile threat from North Korea that could trigger nuclear retaliation and who knows what? South Koreans, it appears, are \_\_\_\_\_.

People living outside North Korea have little idea of just how \_\_\_\_\_ there. North Koreans aren't allowed to watch foreign TV. Most can't talk to foreigners and anyone visiting North Korea is followed by \_\_\_\_\_. Nice!

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### WRITING/SPELLING

#### WRITING / SPEAKING

**1) On the board** - *In pairs/small groups* – list ten things you know about **Kim Jong-un**. Talk about them. What are your conclusions? *5 mins.*

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

- 1) Kim Jong-un \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) North Korea \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Nuclear missiles \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **North Korea – What next?** Your email can be read out in class.

#### GAP FILL READING

- 1) missiles
- 2) unknown
- 3) territory
- 4) prop up
- 5) regime
- 6) puppet
- 7) confrontation
- 8) unify

#### ANSWERS

- 1) ally
- 2) nervously
- 3) regional
- 4) sanctions
- 5) obvious
- 6) trigger
- 7) retaliation
- 8) minders

#### SPELLING

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

- 1) horror
- 2) missiles
- 3) unknown
- 4) concentration
- 5) Japanese
- 6) economic
- 7) development
- 8) puppet
- 9) confrontation
- 10) regime

#### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

- Pass = 12**
- Good = 15**
- Very good = 18**
- Excellent = 20**

- 11) nuclear
- 12) currently
- 13) rather
- 14) unify
- 15) nervously
- 16) diplomacy
- 17) whether
- 18) obvious
- 19) trigger
- 20) retaliation

North Korea – What next? – *30<sup>th</sup> April 2013*