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British people to pay Internet tax

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:

http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090924-internet_tax.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

24th September, 2009

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090924-internet_tax.html

People in Britain might soon have to pay an Internet tax. The Minister for Digital Britain, Stephen Timms, said a tax is necessary to help make the country's Internet speeds faster. Mr Timms told reporters Britain needed to be better connected. "We want to make high speed networks nationally available. The next-generation fund will help that," he said. The new tax will cost people around \$10 a year. It will bring the government \$250m annually. Many British people will disagree with the tax. They already pay Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

The Internet is a vital part of our life. It is very difficult to live today without it. We use it for hundreds of things. Most of us pay our ISP to connect to the Internet. It seems strange that the government wants to collect a tax too. Many people say the Internet today is a basic service we all need, like water, electricity and gas. We don't pay a tax for those services, so an Internet tax is strange. It's true that we need faster connection speeds, but the ISPs should do that. They should use the money we pay them every month.

PHRASE MATCH

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090924-internet_tax.html

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. have to pay an | a. speeds faster |
| 2. help make the country's Internet | b. networks |
| 3. Britain needed to be better | c. Internet tax |
| 4. high speed | d. pay |
| 5. people will disagree | e. connected |
| 6. They already | f. with the tax |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. a vital part | a. every month |
| 2. difficult to live today | b. of our life |
| 3. connect to | c. service |
| 4. a basic | d. without it |
| 5. faster connection | e. the Internet |
| 6. we pay them | f. speeds |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090924-internet_tax.html

People in Britain might _____ an Internet tax. The Minister for Digital Britain, Stephen Timms, said a tax is necessary _____ country's Internet speeds faster. Mr Timms told reporters Britain _____ connected. "We want to make high speed networks nationally available. The next-generation _____," he said. The new tax will cost people around \$10 a year. It will bring the government _____. Many British people _____ the tax. They already pay Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

The Internet is _____ our life. It is very difficult to live today without it. We use it _____ things. Most of us pay our ISP to connect to the Internet. It _____ the government wants to collect a tax too. Many people say the Internet today _____ we all need, like water, electricity and gas. We don't pay a tax for those services, so an Internet tax is strange. It's _____ need faster connection speeds, but the ISPs _____. They should use the money we pay them every month.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090924-internet_tax.html

People in Britain might soon (1) _____ to pay an Internet tax. The Minister for Digital Britain, Stephen Timms, said a tax is (2) _____ to help make the country's Internet speeds faster. Mr Timms told reporters Britain needed to (3) _____ better connected. "We want to make high speed networks nationally available. The next-generation (4) _____ will help that," he said. The new tax will cost people around \$10 a year. It will bring the government \$250m (5) _____. Many British people will disagree with the tax. They already pay Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

The Internet is a vital part (6) _____ our life. It is very difficult to live today without it. We use it for hundreds of things. Most of (7) _____ pay our ISP to connect to the Internet. It seems strange that the government wants to collect a tax too. Many people (8) _____ the Internet today is a basic service we all need, like water, electricity and gas. We don't pay a tax for (9) _____ services, so an Internet tax is strange. It's true that we need faster connection speeds, but the ISPs should do that. They should use the money we (10) _____ them every month.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) have | (b) having | (c) has |
| 2. | (a) needy | (b) needs | (c) necessary |
| 3. | (a) do | (b) be | (c) have |
| 4. | (a) fund | (b) find | (c) fanned |
| 5. | (a) year | (b) annually | (c) annual |
| 6. | (a) of | (b) by | (c) at |
| 7. | (a) we | (b) them | (c) us |
| 8. | (a) talk | (b) speak | (c) say |
| 9. | (a) those | (b) they | (c) them |
| 10. | (a) buy | (b) pay | (c) donate |

SPELLING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090924-internet_tax.html

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. gimht soon have to pay
2. tax is ysreseacn
3. be better ntncocdee
4. high speed tnkresow
5. \$250m yluanlna
6. edsreiag with the tax

Paragraph 2

7. a vltai part of our life
8. nuedrdsh of things
9. oecctnn to the Internet
10. a aicsb service
11. etafrs connection speeds
12. the yenom we pay them

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090924-internet_tax.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () connected. "We want to make high speed networks nationally available. The next-generation fund will help
- () of things. Most of us pay our ISP to connect to the Internet. It seems strange that the government wants to collect
- () connection speeds, but the ISPs should do that. They should use the money we pay them every month.
- () a tax too. Many people say the Internet today is a basic service we all need, like water, electricity and gas. We don't pay
- (**1**) People in Britain might soon have to pay an Internet tax. The Minister for Digital Britain, Stephen Timms, said a tax is
- () a tax for those services, so an Internet tax is strange. It's true that we need faster
- () that," he said. The new tax will cost people around \$10 a year. It will bring the government \$250m annually. Many British people
- () The Internet is a vital part of our life. It is very difficult to live today without it. We use it for hundreds
- () necessary to help make the country's Internet speeds faster. Mr Timms told reporters Britain needed to be better
- () will disagree with the tax. They already pay Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. Internet Britain have an soon pay tax might to.

2. faster speeds Internet country's the make Help.

3. make to want We networks speed high.

4. tax new The year a \$10 around people cost will.

5. with British the people tax will disagree Many.

6. vital our The a of is part life Internet.

7. hundreds for it use We things of.

8. government tax wants too to collect The a.

9. that speeds we need It's faster true connection.

10. them the money They we should pay use.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

WRITING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090924-internet_tax.html

Write about the Internet for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about the Internet. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Internet tax. Include imaginary interviews with an Internet user who does not want to pay tax, and a government leader who wants the tax. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to the leader of your country. Ask him/her three questions about your country's Internet. Give him/her three of your opinions on how it can be better. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.