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Gordon Brown's big election mistake

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

http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1004/100428-uk_election.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

28th April, 2010

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1004/100428-uk_election.html

Britain's Prime Minister Gordon Brown made a huge mistake just days before the country's elections. Brown forgot to turn off his microphone after talking to a 66-year-old voter, Gillian Duffy. He spoke to Ms Duffy in the street for 6 minutes. The two talked about many important topics, like the economy, tax, education and immigration. When Mr Brown got into his car and drove away, he forgot his mic was still on. Reporters were shocked when he told his assistants he thought the lady was a "bigot" – someone who hates foreigners.

Gordon Brown is now in big trouble in the elections on May 6. He is currently third in the polls. This is a dangerous position to be in. Mr Brown later drove back to the lady's house to say sorry to her. He spent nearly an hour with her apologizing. Mr Brown chose not to say anything about Ms Duffy's question. She asked about Eastern Europeans "flocking" into Britain. This word is actually the kind of language a bigot would use. Mr Brown seems out of touch with the voters, especially ones from other countries.

PHRASE MATCH

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1004/100428-uk_election.html

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Gordon Brown made a | a. was still on |
| 2. Brown forgot to turn | b. foreigners |
| 3. a 66-year-old | c. and immigration |
| 4. the economy, tax, education | d. huge mistake |
| 5. he forgot his mic | e. voter |
| 6. someone who hates | f. off his microphone |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Brown is now in | a. would use |
| 2. third in | b. to be in |
| 3. a dangerous position | c. with the voters |
| 4. Brown chose not | d. big trouble |
| 5. the kind of language a bigot | e. to say anything |
| 6. out of touch | f. the polls |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1004/100428-uk_election.html

Britain's Prime Minister Gordon Brown _____ mistake just days before the country's elections. Brown forgot _____ microphone after talking to a 66-year-old voter, Gillian Duffy. He spoke to Ms Duffy _____ 6 minutes. The two talked about many important _____ economy, tax, education and immigration. When Mr Brown got into his car and drove away, he forgot his _____ on. Reporters were shocked when he told his assistants he thought the lady was a "bigot" - _____ foreigners.

Gordon Brown is now _____ in the elections on May 6. He is _____ the polls. This is a dangerous position to be in. Mr Brown later drove back to the lady's house _____ her. He spent nearly an hour with her apologizing. Mr Brown _____ anything about Ms Duffy's question. She asked about Eastern Europeans "flocking" into Britain. This word _____ kind of language a bigot would use. Mr Brown seems _____ the voters, especially ones from other countries.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1004/100428-uk_election.html

Britain's Prime Minister Gordon Brown made a (1) _____ mistake just days before the country's elections. Brown forgot to turn (2) _____ his microphone after talking to a 66-year-old voter, Gillian Duffy. He spoke to Ms Duffy in the street for 6 minutes. The (3) _____ talked about many important topics, like the economy, tax, education and immigration. When Mr Brown got into his car and drove (4) _____, he forgot his mic was still on. Reporters were shocked when he told his assistants he thought the lady was a "bigot" – someone who (5) _____ foreigners.

Gordon Brown is now in big (6) _____ in the elections on May 6. He is currently third in the polls. This is a dangerous position to be (7) _____. Mr Brown later drove back to the lady's house to say sorry (8) _____ her. He spent nearly an hour with her apologizing. Mr Brown (9) _____ not to say anything about Ms Duffy's question. She asked about Eastern Europeans "flocking" into Britain. This word is actually the kind of language a bigot would use. Mr Brown seems out of (10) _____ with the voters, especially ones from other countries.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) huge | (b) high | (c) hugely |
| 2. | (a) only | (b) off | (c) out |
| 3. | (a) duo | (b) two | (c) twos |
| 4. | (a) under | (b) above | (c) away |
| 5. | (a) hates | (b) hatred | (c) hate |
| 6. | (a) troublesome | (b) trouble | (c) troubling |
| 7. | (a) in | (b) on | (c) to |
| 8. | (a) at | (b) in | (c) to |
| 9. | (a) choice | (b) choose | (c) chose |
| 10. | (a) feel | (b) touch | (c) hold |

SPELLING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1004/100428-uk_election.html

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. made a huge skmaeit
2. nurt off his microphone
3. a 66-year-old roetv
4. many important sptoci
5. his mic was slitl on
6. someone who athse foreigners

Paragraph 2

7. in big oebulrt
8. third in the oplsl
9. vdeor back
10. Brown hoces not to say
11. gnueaagl a bigot would use
12. out of tocuh

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1004/100428-uk_election.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () Gordon Brown is now in big trouble in the elections on May 6. He is currently third in the polls. This
- () to Ms Duffy in the street for 6 minutes. The two talked about many important topics, like the economy, tax,
- () elections. Brown forgot to turn off his microphone after talking to a 66-year-old voter, Gillian Duffy. He spoke
- () on. Reporters were shocked when he told his assistants he thought the lady was a "bigot" – someone who hates foreigners.
- () is a dangerous position to be in. Mr Brown later drove back to the lady's house to say sorry to her. He spent
- () bigot would use. Mr Brown seems out of touch with the voters, especially ones from other countries.
- (**1**) Britain's Prime Minister Gordon Brown made a huge mistake just days before the country's
- () education and immigration. When Mr Brown got into his car and drove away, he forgot his mic was still
- () asked about Eastern Europeans "flocking" into Britain. This word is actually the kind of language a
- () nearly an hour with her apologizing. Mr Brown chose not to say anything about Ms Duffy's question. She

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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

1. huge mistake Gordon Brown made a.

2. microphone his off turn to forgot Brown.

3. talked two The topics important many about.

4. his car Brown and got drove into away.

5. a was lady the thought He bigot.

6. big the Brown in in now trouble elections is.

7. position This to is be a in dangerous.

8. anything to chose say not Brown.

9. use of would kind bigot The a language.

10. seems the out voters of touch Brown with.

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. _____

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. GORDON BROWN: Search the Internet and find more information about Gordon Brown and the UK Election. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Gordon Brown's mistake. Include an imaginary interview with Gordon Brown and someone from an Eastern European country. 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 Gordon Brown. Ask him three questions about being Prime Minister. Give him three pieces of advice on how he can win the election. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.