

# NEWS ENGLISH LESSONS.com

## Taliban and Karzai in peace talks

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

[http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1201/120130-peace\\_talks.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1201/120130-peace_talks.html)

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**ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.**

**30th January, 2012**

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1201/120130-peace\\_talks.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1201/120130-peace_talks.html)

Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai and the Taliban will soon hold peace talks. The meetings between the Afghan government and the rebel group will take place in Saudi Arabia. Afghans hope their leaders can bring an end to the decade-long war that has ruined their country. If the talks go ahead, it will be a major breakthrough in relations between the Taliban and the Afghan government. Until now, the Taliban has refused to recognize or talk to President Karzai's government. The Taliban has not yet commented on the upcoming meeting.

The Saudi Arabia talks are the second set of meetings planned with the Taliban. The group plans to meet with American negotiators in Qatar. The rebels are opening a special office in the capital, Doha, to help the discussions. The Doha talks between the Taliban and USA angered Mr Karzai because no one told him about them. He only found out after the dates were set. He is a little suspicious that talks between the Taliban and Americans will not be good for his government. He suspects America will tell him what to do to get a peace deal.

# PHRASE MATCH

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1201/120130-peace\\_talks.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1201/120130-peace_talks.html)

**Match the following phrases from the article.**

## Paragraph 1

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. hold                  | a. long war              |
| 2. rebel                 | b. place in Saudi Arabia |
| 3. take                  | c. peace talks           |
| 4. an end to the decade- | d. yet commented         |
| 5. a major breakthrough  | e. group                 |
| 6. The Taliban has not   | f. in relations          |

## Paragraph 2

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. the second         | a. about them      |
| 2. meet with American | b. deal            |
| 3. no one told him    | c. government      |
| 4. He is a little     | d. negotiators     |
| 5. good for his       | e. set of meetings |
| 6. get a peace        | f. suspicious      |

# LISTENING GAP FILL

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1201/120130-peace\\_talks.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1201/120130-peace_talks.html)

Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai and the Taliban will soon \_\_\_\_\_ . The meetings between the Afghan government and \_\_\_\_\_ will take place in Saudi Arabia. Afghans hope their leaders can \_\_\_\_\_ the decade-long war that has ruined their country. If the talks go ahead, it will be a \_\_\_\_\_ in relations between the Taliban and the Afghan government. Until now, the Taliban \_\_\_\_\_ recognize or talk to President Karzai's government. The Taliban has not \_\_\_\_\_ on the upcoming meeting.

The Saudi Arabia talks are \_\_\_\_\_ of meetings planned with the Taliban. The group \_\_\_\_\_ with American negotiators in Qatar. The rebels are opening a special office \_\_\_\_\_, Doha, to help the discussions. The Doha talks between the Taliban and USA angered Mr Karzai because no \_\_\_\_\_ about them. He only found out after the dates were set. He is a \_\_\_\_\_ that talks between the Taliban and Americans will not be good for his government. He suspects America will tell him \_\_\_\_\_ get a peace deal.

# MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1201/120130-peace\\_talks.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1201/120130-peace_talks.html)

Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai and the Taliban will soon (1) \_\_\_\_\_ peace talks. The meetings between the Afghan government and the rebel group will (2) \_\_\_\_\_ place in Saudi Arabia. Afghans (3) \_\_\_\_\_ their leaders can bring an end to the decade-long war that (4) \_\_\_\_\_ ruined their country. If the talks go ahead, it will be a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ breakthrough in relations between the Taliban and the Afghan government. Until now, the Taliban has refused to recognize or talk to President Karzai's government. The Taliban has not (6) \_\_\_\_\_ commented on the upcoming meeting.

The Saudi Arabia (7) \_\_\_\_\_ are the second set of meetings planned with the Taliban. The group plans to meet with American negotiators in Qatar. The rebels are (8) \_\_\_\_\_ a special office in the capital, Doha, to help the discussions. The Doha talks between the Taliban and USA (9) \_\_\_\_\_ Mr Karzai because no one (10) \_\_\_\_\_ him about them. He only found out after the dates were set. He is a (11) \_\_\_\_\_ suspicious that talks between the Taliban and Americans will not be good for his government. He suspects America will tell him what to do to get a peace (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

## Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- |     |              |             |             |
|-----|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1.  | (a) bold     | (b) told    | (c) hold    |
| 2.  | (a) take     | (b) give    | (c) be      |
| 3.  | (a) hoping   | (b) hope    | (c) hoped   |
| 4.  | (a) having   | (b) has     | (c) have    |
| 5.  | (a) majority | (b) majored | (c) major   |
| 6.  | (a) yet      | (b) until   | (c) for     |
| 7.  | (a) talks    | (b) talk    | (c) talking |
| 8.  | (a) opens    | (b) opening | (c) opened  |
| 9.  | (a) angry    | (b) angers  | (c) angered |
| 10. | (a) spoke    | (b) told    | (c) shouted |
| 11. | (a) little   | (b) few     | (c) small   |
| 12. | (a) meal     | (b) seal    | (c) deal    |

# SPELLING

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1201/120130-peace\\_talks.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1201/120130-peace_talks.html)

**Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.**

## Paragraph 1

1. hold peace altks
2. lrebe group
3. the dadece-long war
4. If the talks go aahed
5. a jrmao breakthrough in relations
6. the mnugcopi meeting

## Paragraph 2

7. second set of egmnsite
8. opening a paeicls office
9. help the unsdicoiss
10. He only fudno out after
11. He is a little souusispic
12. He tspscseu America

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1201/120130-peace\\_talks.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1201/120130-peace_talks.html)

## Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) plans to meet with American negotiators in Qatar. The rebels are opening a special
- ( ) office in the capital, Doha, to help the discussions. The Doha talks between the Taliban and USA
- ( ) talk to President Karzai's government. The Taliban has not yet commented on the upcoming meeting.
- ( ) good for his government. He suspects America will tell him what to do to get a peace deal.
- ( ) The Saudi Arabia talks are the second set of meetings planned with the Taliban. The group
- ( ) between the Afghan government and the rebel group will take place in Saudi Arabia. Afghans hope
- ( ) their leaders can bring an end to the decade-long war that has ruined their country. If the talks go
- ( **1** ) Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai and the Taliban will soon hold peace talks. The meetings
- ( ) angered Mr Karzai because no one told him about them. He only found out
- ( ) after the dates were set. He is a little suspicious that talks between the Taliban and Americans will not be
- ( ) government. Until now, the Taliban has refused to recognize or
- ( ) ahead, it will be a major breakthrough in relations between the Taliban and the Afghan

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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

1. The talks peace hold soon will Taliban.

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2. - end decade war an the long Bring to.

---

3. a major It breakthrough will in be relations.

---

4. talk or Recognize government Karzai's President to.

---

5. Taliban not commented The has yet.

---

6. of planned The set meetings second.

---

7. plans negotiators to meet The with group American.

---

8. capital the in office special a Opening.

---

9. one him them No told about.

---

10. America him do suspects tell to He will what.

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## **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/1201/120130-peace\\_talks.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1201/120130-peace_talks.html)

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

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# 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. AFGHANISTAN:** Search the Internet and find more information about Afghanistan. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about Afghanistan. Include an imaginary interview with President Hamid Karzai and the Taliban. 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 an Afghanistan expert. Ask him/her three questions about Afghanistan. Give him/her three of your opinions on its future. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.