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## **Level 5**

### **U.N. makes first ever cut in staff**

**30th December, 2013**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut-5.html>

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**Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut-5.html>

The U.N. is cutting staff for the first time ever. The General Assembly approved its first cut since the international body was created in 1945. The decision means 219 fewer positions, or two per cent of all U.N. posts. The General Assembly also authorised freezes on pay rises and benefits. It acted because of pressure from member states to reduce spending. Many countries say they are struggling to meet their share of contributions. They say they are still suffering from austerity measures taken after the global financial crisis.

The U.S. ambassador to the U.N. said the cuts were "crucial" and would eliminate unnecessary or out-of-date jobs. He told the General Assembly: "When the budgets and crucial services of many...organisations have been squeezed, these measures will hold...costs in place." He added: "Our shared goal should be to ensure that the U.N. can maximise the results that it delivers with the amount of resources that member states are collectively able to provide." The U.S. pays 22 per cent of the U.N. budget and is the biggest financial contributor.

Sources: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-12-27/united-nations-makes-first-staff-cut-since-1945-in-budget.html>  
<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2013-12-27/united-nations-makes-first-staff-cut-since-1945-in-budget-deal>  
<http://in.reuters.com/article/2013/12/27/us-un-budget-idINBRE9BQ0JX20131227>

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. cutting staff for              | a. states              |
| 2. the international              | b. financial crisis    |
| 3. freezes on pay                 | c. spending            |
| 4. pressure from member           | d. body                |
| 5. reduce                         | e. the first time ever |
| 6. struggling to meet             | f. measures            |
| 7. still suffering from austerity | g. rises               |
| 8. after the global               | h. their share         |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. The U.S. ambassador     | a. squeezed         |
| 2. the cuts were           | b. the U.N. budget  |
| 3. unnecessary or          | c. "crucial"        |
| 4. organisations have been | d. the results      |
| 5. shared                  | e. contributor      |
| 6. maximise                | f. out-of-date jobs |
| 7. 22 per cent of          | g. to the U.N.      |
| 8. the biggest financial   | h. goal             |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut-5.html>

The U.N. is cutting staff for (1) \_\_\_\_\_. The General Assembly approved its (2) \_\_\_\_\_ international body was created in 1945. The decision means (3) \_\_\_\_\_, or two per cent of all U.N. posts. The General Assembly also (4) \_\_\_\_\_ pay rises and benefits. It acted because of pressure from member states to reduce spending. Many countries say they (5) \_\_\_\_\_ their share of contributions. They say they are still (6) \_\_\_\_\_ measures taken after the global financial crisis.

The U.S. ambassador to the U.N. said the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ would eliminate unnecessary (8) \_\_\_\_\_. He told the General Assembly: "When the budgets and crucial services of many...organisations have (9) \_\_\_\_\_ measures will hold...costs in place." He added: "Our (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to ensure that the U.N. can maximise the results that it delivers with the amount of resources that member states (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to provide." The U.S. pays 22 per cent of the U.N. budget and is the (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# THE UNITED NATIONS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about The United Nations in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

