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Level 2

HSBC bank helped the rich hide money

12th February, 2015

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1502/150212-hsbc-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1502/150212-hsbc-2.html>

The BBC says that the bank HSBC helped rich people to hide money so they would not have to pay tax. A BBC programme looked at the details of thousands of bank accounts, worth \$128 billion, from an HSBC bank in Switzerland. The information was leaked by a whistleblower working as a computer expert for HSBC in Geneva. He stole the details of more than 100,000 clients worldwide. The data shows that HSBC helped wealthy clients to evade tax. A French banking team looked at the stolen data. It said that 99.8% of French citizens on the list were probably evading tax.

HSBC said the bank has changed a lot. It has put in place many policies designed to prevent its banking services being used to evade taxes or launder money. The Guardian newspaper said HSBC understood that it failed to follow the law properly. One woman who complained when the bank did not change lost her job. Sue Shelley's job was to make sure HSBC followed the law. The BBC said that when she complained that the bank was not following the law, the bank fired her. The BBC said HSBC is now facing criminal investigations in the USA, France, Belgium and Argentina.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/business-31248913>
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/hsbc-helped-rich-customers-dodge-tax-with-secret-swiss-bank-accounts-reports-says-10032594.html>
<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/feb/08/hsbc-files-expose-swiss-bank-clients-dodge-taxes-hide-millions>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1502/150212-hsbc-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. HSBC helped rich | a. 100,000 clients worldwide |
| 2. A BBC | b. of bank accounts |
| 3. looked at the details of thousands | c. the stolen data |
| 4. The information was leaked | d. people to hide money |
| 5. He stole the details of more than | e. clients to evade tax |
| 6. HSBC helped wealthy | f. programme |
| 7. A French banking team looked at | g. probably evading tax |
| 8. 99.8% of French citizens on the list were | h. by a whistleblower |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. HSBC said the bank has | a. following the law |
| 2. It has put in place | b. the bank did not change |
| 3. launder | c. fired her |
| 4. it failed to follow | d. changed a lot |
| 5. One woman who complained when | e. money |
| 6. the bank was not | f. investigations |
| 7. the bank | g. the law properly |
| 8. facing criminal | h. many policies |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1502/150212-hsbc-2.html>

The BBC says that the bank HSBC helped (1) _____ money so they would not (2) _____. A BBC programme looked at the (3) _____ of bank accounts, worth \$128 billion, from an HSBC bank in Switzerland. The information (4) _____ whistleblower working as a computer expert for HSBC in Geneva. He stole the details of more than 100,000 (5) _____. The data shows that HSBC helped wealthy clients to evade tax. A French banking team looked at the stolen data. It (6) _____ French citizens on the list were probably evading tax.

HSBC said the bank has changed a lot. (7) _____ many policies designed to prevent its banking services being used to evade taxes (8) _____. The Guardian newspaper said HSBC understood that it (9) _____ the law properly. One woman who complained when the bank did not change (10) _____. Sue Shelley's job was to make sure HSBC followed the law. The BBC said that when she complained that the bank (11) _____ the law, the bank fired her. The BBC said HSBC is (12) _____ investigations in the USA, France, Belgium and Argentina.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1502/150212-hsbc-2.html>

TheBBCsays that the bank HSBC helped rich people to hide money so they would not have to pay tax. A BBC programme looked at the details of thousands of bank accounts, worth \$128 billion, from an HSBC bank in Switzerland. The information was leaked by a whistleblower working as a computer expert for HSBC in Geneva. He stole the details of more than 100,000 clients worldwide. The data shows that HSBC helped wealthy clients to evade tax. A French banking team looked at the stolen data. It said that 99.8% of French citizens on the list were probably evading tax. HSBC said the bank has changed a lot. It has put in place many policies designed to prevent its banking services being used to evade taxes or launder money. The Guardian newspaper said HSBC understood that it failed to follow the law properly. One woman who complained when the bank did not change her job. Sue Shelley's job was to make sure HSBC followed the law. The BBC said that when she complained that the bank was not following the law, the bank fired her. The BBC said HSBC is now facing criminal investigations in the USA, France, Belgium and Argentina.

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)

WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1502/150212-hsbc-2.html>

Write about **banks** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner’s paper.
