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Level 2

Venezuela seizes 4 million toys for its children

13th December, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161213-toys-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161213-toys-2.html>

Venezuela's government has taken nearly 4 million children's toys from a toy company. It will give the toys to children for free or at low prices. The government says the company unfairly charged high prices for the toys so only rich people could buy them. Venezuela has one of the highest rates of inflation in the world. The rate could be as high as 2,000 per cent in 2017. Many Venezuelans can't afford non-essential items like toys. Even a jar of Nutella can cost half the monthly minimum salary. In the past few months, Venezuela has also cut the price of clothes.

The government seized 3,821,926 toys. It tweeted: "Our children are sacred....Boys and girls of this country will have a happy Christmas." The government said the toy company kept the toys out of the shops to reduce their supply and increase prices. The government also said it bought the toys with dollars it got at very low rates and tried to sell them at much higher prices. The company said it has done nothing wrong and was not trying to sell the toys at high prices to make big profits. It said many of the toys were out of fashion.

Sources: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-12-09/venezuela-seizes-millions-of-toys-accuses-importer-of-hoarding>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-38274267>
<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/12/11/505189281/venezuela-seizes-nearly-4-million-toys-saying-theyre-overpriced>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161213-toys-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. It will give the toys to children | a. minimum salary |
| 2. unfairly charged | b. inflation in the world |
| 3. one of the highest rates of | c. of clothes |
| 4. The rate could be as high | d. for free |
| 5. can't afford non-essential | e. few months |
| 6. half the monthly | f. high prices |
| 7. In the past | g. items like toys |
| 8. cut the price | h. as 2,000 per cent |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. The government seized | a. rates |
| 2. the toy company kept the toys | b. make big profits |
| 3. reduce their supply | c. 3,821,926 toys |
| 4. it bought the toys | d. of fashion |
| 5. very low | e. out of the shops |
| 6. The company said it has | f. with dollars |
| 7. sell the toys at high prices to | g. and increase prices |
| 8. It said many of the toys were out | h. done nothing wrong |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161213-toys-2.html>

Venezuela's government (1) _____ 4 million children's toys from a toy company. It will (2) _____ children for free or at low prices. The government says the company (3) _____ high prices for the toys so only rich people could buy them. Venezuela (4) _____ highest rates of inflation in the world. The rate could be as high as 2,000 per cent in 2017. Many Venezuelans can't afford (5) _____ like toys. Even a jar of Nutella can cost half the monthly minimum salary. In the past few months, Venezuela (6) _____ price of clothes.

The government seized (7) _____ toys. It tweeted: "Our children are sacred....Boys and girls (8) _____ will have a happy Christmas." The government said the toy company (9) _____ out of the shops to reduce their supply and increase prices. The government also said it bought the toys with dollars (10) _____ low rates and tried to sell them (11) _____ prices. The company said it has done nothing wrong and was not trying to sell the toys at high prices to make big profits. It said (12) _____ toys were out of fashion.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161213-toys-2.html>

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TOYS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161213-toys-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about toys 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) _____

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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) _____

WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1612/161213-toys-2.html>

Write about **toys** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
