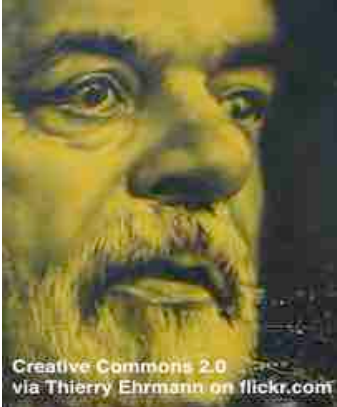


## Former Brazilian president in jail

10th April, 2018



Brazil's former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is in jail after surrendering to authorities on Saturday night. He was sentenced to spend 12 years behind bars after being found guilty of money laundering and corruption. It is a huge fall from grace for the still-popular ex-leader.

Mr da Silva still has massive support and just hours before turning himself in to the police, his supporters were trying to stop him from going into custody. Hundreds of supporters from a metal workers' union blocked a gate where a car carrying da Silva was trying to leave to meet police officers. It was only with the help of his bodyguards that he could get through the crowds. This meant possible clashes with armed police were avoided.

Mr da Silva is affectionately known as Lula by his supporters. He was born in poverty and rose through the ranks of workers' unions to become leader of South America's largest country. He ran for the presidency several times before being elected to office in 2002. He governed from 2003 to 2010. During his two administrations, he initiated several social welfare programs and resurrected the economy. This helped tens of millions out of extreme poverty, which made him very popular. Former U.S. President Barack Obama once called da Silva, "the most popular politician on Earth". When he left office, his approval rating was an impressive 83 per cent. He hopes to overturn his conviction and run for president again.

Sources: foxnews.com / theguardian.com / voanews.com

## Writing

It is difficult to avoid corrupt practices when in positions of high power. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

jail / authorities / behind bars / money laundering / corruption / union / police officers supporters / poverty / presidency / social welfare / economy / politician / approval

## True / False

- Brazil's president surrendered to the police on Saturday night. T / F
- Lula da Silva was sentenced to 20 years in prison. T / F
- Lula's supporters tried to block him from going to the police. T / F
- There were many clashes between Lula's supporters and the police. T / F
- Lula da Silva was born into a rich family. T / F
- Lula da Silva became president the first time he ran for office. T / F
- Barack Obama called Lula da Silva the most popular politician on Earth. T / F
- Lula da Silva doesn't want to run for office again. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>jail</b>           | a. a number of    |
| 2. <b>surrender</b>      | b. enormous       |
| 3. <b>huge</b>           | c. confrontations |
| 4. <b>supporters</b>     | d. reverse        |
| 5. <b>clashes</b>        | e. give up        |
| 6. <b>affectionately</b> | f. began          |
| 7. <b>several</b>        | g. prison         |
| 8. <b>initiated</b>      | h. severe         |
| 9. <b>extreme</b>        | i. fans           |
| 10. <b>overturn</b>      | j. warmly         |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about Brazil's Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva?
- Why do people become corrupt?
- What is money laundering?
- Do we all have the potential to take part in corruption?
- Who is the most honest leader you know?
- What would it be like to spend time behind bars?
- Is Lula's 12-year sentence fair?
- Why did his supporters try to stop his arrest?

# Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

1. in jail after surrendering
  2. He was sentenced to spend 12 years
  3. It is a huge fall
  4. trying to stop him from going into
  5. possible clashes with armed
  6. He ran
  7. social
  8. helped tens of millions out of
  9. approval
  10. He hopes to overturn
- a. from grace
  - b. rating
  - c. extreme poverty
  - d. to authorities
  - e. his conviction
  - f. behind bars
  - g. custody
  - h. welfare programs
  - i. police
  - j. for the presidency

## Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How many rags-to-riches stories do you know?
- c) What does it take to become a country's president?
- d) What are the worst kinds of corruption?
- e) Do you think "power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely"?
- f) How well-liked is your country's leader?
- g) Should Lula be allowed to run for president again?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Lula?

## Spelling

1. in jail after eudrsnirgnre to authorities
2. He was sntceend to spend 12 years behind bars
3. after being found lgytui
4. money eundarinlg
5. siavsem support
6. going into soycudt
7. iftlcfeoayatne known as Lula
8. born in opyrtev
9. he iintidate several social welfare programs
10. vppaloar rating
11. an ipsesivemr 83 per cent
12. overturn his ntiocivnoc

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. b	4. i	5. c
6. j	7. a	8. f	9. h	10. d

## Role Play

### Role A – Reducing Poverty

You think reducing poverty is a leader's top priority. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): free healthcare, housing or foreign relations.

### Role B – Free Healthcare

You think free healthcare is a leader's top priority. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): reducing poverty, housing or foreign relations.

### Role C – Housing

You think housing is a leader's top priority. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): free healthcare, reducing poverty or foreign relations.

### Role D – Foreign Relations

You think foreign relations is a leader's top priority. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): free healthcare, housing or reducing poverty.

## Speaking – Policies

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important policies for a president at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- reducing inflation
- reducing poverty
- housing
- creating jobs
- foreign relations
- strengthening the army
- building houses
- free healthcare

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.