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## **Ups and downs at Copenhagen**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0912/091215-copenhagen.html>

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# THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0912/091215-copenhagen.html>

Things aren't going so smoothly at the United Nations climate summit in Copenhagen. There is a lot of mistrust between the poorer and rich nations. On Monday, the poor countries walked out of the talks. They were very unhappy with what they saw as a lack of progress. In particular, they said the aid offers from rich countries were not good enough. They also thought there was too much attention on a power struggle between the USA and China. Another huge sticking point was what would happen after the Kyoto Protocol runs out. This treaty does not require emission cuts from the USA or China, which together produce 40 per cent of the world's pollution. Poorer nations are worried that richer countries want to let the Kyoto Protocol finish and not replace it with anything.

Most of the participants in Copenhagen believe the final treaty will be a weaker version of what is needed. The big questions will probably remain unanswered. The richest countries do not agree on how much they have to cut their emissions and how much they have to pay to help developing countries. Brazil's ambassador for climate change Sergio Serra said: "Maybe the result you get from here is going to be less ambitious than we would like. But it would be better than nothing." The U.S. climate envoy Todd Stern agreed. He said: "We don't have very much time. The clock is definitely ticking." An official from Nigeria attacked the European Union for not offering enough financial aid. He called their offer "pathetic" and asked them to be more realistic.

# WARM-UPS

**1. CLIMATE CHANGE:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about climate change. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*things going smoothly / mistrust / progress / power struggle / pollution / rich nations / treaties / big questions / emissions / developing countries / ticking clocks / pathetic*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. CLIMATE REPS:** What would the representatives of these countries say at Copenhagen? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you heard.

	Our promise	How climate change affects us
USA		
Antarctica		
Bangladesh		
China		
Tuvalu		
Brazil		

**4. SUCCESS:** Students A **strongly** believe there will be / was success at Copenhagen; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. GLOBAL WARMING:** How will it affect the following? Rate them and share your ratings with your partner: 10 = hugely; 1 = not at all. Change partners and share your ratings again.

- me
- frogs
- cockroaches
- polar bears
- whales
- Bangladeshis
- Mosquitoes
- Saudi Arabians

**6. EMISSIONS:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'emissions'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0912/091215-copenhagen.html>

## 1. TRUE / FALSE:

Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- |                                                                         |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| a. The temperature in Copenhagen was very high and then very low.       | T / F |
| b. Poorer countries believed most of what rich countries said.          | T / F |
| c. There was disagreement on what would come after the Kyoto Protocol.  | T / F |
| d. China and the USA produce half the world's pollution.                | T / F |
| e. Most people at the summit believe the treaty won't be strong enough. | T / F |
| f. There is agreement on how much rich nations should pay poor nations. | T / F |
| g. An American representative said there was enough time.               | T / F |
| h. A Nigerian representative was unimpressed with a European offer.     | T / F |

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. smoothly     | a. massive     |
| 2. mistrust     | b. stay        |
| 3. progress     | c. suspicion   |
| 4. huge         | d. sensible    |
| 5. replace      | e. members     |
| 6. participants | f. well        |
| 7. remain       | g. help        |
| 8. definitely   | h. swap        |
| 9. aid          | i. improvement |
| 10. realistic   | j. absolutely  |

## 3. PHRASE MATCH:

(Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                       |                                |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Things aren't going                | a. of what is needed           |
| 2. There is a lot of mistrust between | b. USA and China               |
| 3. poor countries walked              | c. realistic                   |
| 4. a power struggle between the       | d. the poorer and rich nations |
| 5. not replace it                     | e. than we would like          |
| 6. a weaker version                   | f. so smoothly                 |
| 7. The big questions will probably    | g. definitely ticking          |
| 8. less ambitious                     | h. out of the talks            |
| 9. The clock is                       | i. with anything               |
| 10. be more                           | j. remain unanswered           |

# WHILE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0912/091215-copenhagen.html>

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Things aren't \_\_\_\_\_ so smoothly at the United Nations climate summit in Copenhagen. There is a lot of mistrust \_\_\_\_\_ the poorer and rich nations. On Monday, the poor countries walked out of the \_\_\_\_\_. They were very unhappy with what they saw as a lack of progress. In particular, they said the aid \_\_\_\_\_ from rich countries were not good enough. They also thought there was too much attention on a \_\_\_\_\_ struggle between the USA and China. Another huge sticking point was what would happen after the Kyoto Protocol \_\_\_\_\_ out. This treaty does not require emission cuts from the USA or China, which together \_\_\_\_\_ 40 per cent of the world's pollution. Poorer nations are worried that richer countries want to let the Kyoto Protocol finish and not replace it with \_\_\_\_\_.

*runs*  
*talks*  
*produce*  
*going*  
*power*  
*anything*  
*between*  
*offers*

Most of the participants in Copenhagen \_\_\_\_\_ the final treaty will be a weaker version of what is needed. The \_\_\_\_\_ questions will probably remain unanswered. The richest countries do not agree on how much they have to \_\_\_\_\_ their emissions and how much they have to pay to help developing countries. Brazil's ambassador for climate change Sergio Serra said: "Maybe the \_\_\_\_\_ you get from here is going to be less ambitious than we would like. But it would be \_\_\_\_\_ than nothing." The U.S. climate envoy Todd Stern agreed. He said: "We don't have very much time. The \_\_\_\_\_ is definitely ticking." An official from Nigeria \_\_\_\_\_ the European Union for not offering enough financial aid. He called their offer "pathetic" and asked them to be more \_\_\_\_\_.

*cut*  
*clock*  
*realistic*  
*big*  
*attacked*  
*believe*  
*result*  
*better*

## LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0912/091215-copenhagen.html>

Things aren't \_\_\_\_\_ at the United Nations climate summit in Copenhagen. There is \_\_\_\_\_ between the poorer and rich nations. On Monday, the poor countries walked out of the talks. They were very unhappy with what they saw \_\_\_\_\_. In particular, they said the aid offers from rich countries were not good enough. They also thought there was too much attention on a power struggle between the USA and China. Another huge sticking \_\_\_\_\_ happen after the Kyoto Protocol runs out. This treaty does not \_\_\_\_\_ from the USA or China, which together produce 40 per cent of the world's pollution. Poorer nations are worried that richer countries want to let the Kyoto Protocol finish and not \_\_\_\_\_ anything.

Most of the participants in Copenhagen believe the final treaty will be a \_\_\_\_\_ is needed. The big questions will probably remain unanswered. The richest countries \_\_\_\_\_ much they have to cut their emissions and how much they \_\_\_\_\_ help developing countries. Brazil's ambassador for climate change Sergio Serra said: "Maybe the result you get from here is going \_\_\_\_\_ than we would like. But it would be better than nothing." The U.S. climate envoy Todd Stern agreed. He said: "We don't have very much time. The clock \_\_\_\_\_." An official from Nigeria attacked the European Union for not offering enough financial aid. He called their offer "pathetic" and asked them \_\_\_\_\_.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0912/091215-copenhagen.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'climate' and 'change'.

<b>climate</b>	<b>change</b>
----------------	---------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• smoothly</li><li>• mistrust</li><li>• lack</li><li>• power</li><li>• cuts</li><li>• replace</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• final</li><li>• remain</li><li>• help</li><li>• result</li><li>• clock</li><li>• offer</li></ul>
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# STUDENT CLIMATE CHANGE SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0912/091215-copenhagen.html>

Write five GOOD questions about climate change 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.



# CLIMATE CHANGE DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the term 'climate change'?
- c) Are you following the news of what's happening in Copenhagen?
- d) Why do you think things aren't going so smoothly?
- e) Why are poorer countries unhappy?
- f) What is the power struggle between China and the USA?
- g) What is your country doing to prevent global warming?
- h) Is walking out of the talks the sensible thing to do?
- i) What do you know about the Kyoto Protocol?
- j) What do governments need to agree on in Copenhagen?

*Ups and downs at Copenhagen – 15th December, 2009*  
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# CLIMATE CHANGE DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) How would you explain climate change to a child?
- c) What are the big questions over climate change that need to be answered?
- d) How worried are you about climate change?
- e) Do you think climate change is getting worse?
- f) What do you think governments need to do to fight climate change?
- g) Do you believe climate change is because of human activity?
- h) How much time do we have left?
- i) What will the Earth be like in 100 years from now?
- j) What questions would you like to ask your country's leader?

# LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0912/091215-copenhagen.html>

Things aren't going (1) \_\_\_\_ smoothly at the United Nations climate summit in Copenhagen. There is a lot of mistrust between the poorer and rich nations. On Monday, the poor countries walked (2) \_\_\_\_ of the talks. They were very unhappy with what they saw as a lack of progress. In particular, they said the aid offers from rich countries were not good enough. They also thought there was too much attention (3) \_\_\_\_ a power struggle between the USA and China. Another huge sticking point was what would happen after the Kyoto Protocol (4) \_\_\_\_ out. This treaty does not require emission (5) \_\_\_\_ from the USA or China, which together produce 40 per cent of the world's pollution. Poorer nations are worried that richer countries want to let the Kyoto Protocol (6) \_\_\_\_ and not replace it with anything.

Most of the participants in Copenhagen (7) \_\_\_\_ the final treaty will be a weaker version of what is needed. The big questions will probably remain unanswered. The richest countries do not agree (8) \_\_\_\_ how much they have to cut their emissions and how much they have to pay to help developing countries. Brazil's ambassador for climate change Sergio Serra said: "Maybe the result you get from here is going to be less (9) \_\_\_\_ than we would like. But it would be better than (10) \_\_\_\_." The U.S. climate envoy Todd Stern agreed. He said: "We don't have very much time. The clock is definitely (11) \_\_\_\_." An official from Nigeria attacked the European Union for not offering enough financial aid. He called their offer "pathetic" and asked them to be more (12) \_\_\_\_.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |               |                 |               |               |
|-----|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) such      | (b) some        | (c) sew       | (d) so        |
| 2.  | (a) out       | (b) in          | (c) up        | (d) to        |
| 3.  | (a) in        | (b) at          | (c) on        | (d) of        |
| 4.  | (a) walks     | (b) runs        | (c) jogs      | (d) paces     |
| 5.  | (a) cut       | (b) cuts        | (c) cutting   | (d) cutter    |
| 6.  | (a) finishes  | (b) finished    | (c) finish    | (d) finishing |
| 7.  | (a) believe   | (b) belief      | (c) believes  | (d) beliefs   |
| 8.  | (a) in        | (b) at          | (c) of        | (d) on        |
| 9.  | (a) ambitions | (b) ambitiously | (c) ambition  | (d) ambitious |
| 10. | (a) something | (b) nothing     | (c) anything  | (d) thing     |
| 11. | (a) ticking   | (b) ticks       | (c) tock      | (d) tocks     |
| 12. | (a) really    | (b) realism     | (c) realistic | (d) reality   |

Ups and downs at Copenhagen- 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2009



# 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. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about the Copenhagen climate change summit. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. CLIMATE CHANGE:** Make a poster about climate change. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. TREATY:** Write a magazine article about a possible climate change treaty. Include imaginary interviews with representatives from a rich and poor country.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to the leader of your country. Ask him/her three questions about climate change. Give him/her three suggestions on what he/she should do to stop global warming. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE:

a. F      b. F      c. T      d. T      e. T      f. F      g. F      h. T

## SYNONYM MATCH:

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. smoothly     | a. well        |
| 2. mistrust     | b. suspicion   |
| 3. progress     | c. improvement |
| 4. huge         | d. massive     |
| 5. replace      | e. swap        |
| 6. participants | f. members     |
| 7. remain       | g. stay        |
| 8. definitely   | h. absolutely  |
| 9. aid          | i. help        |
| 10. realistic   | j. sensible    |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |                                       |                                |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Things aren't going                | a. so smoothly                 |
| 2. There is a lot of mistrust between | b. the poorer and rich nations |
| 3. poor countries walked              | c. out of the talks            |
| 4. a power struggle between the       | d. USA and China               |
| 5. not replace it                     | e. with anything               |
| 6. a weaker version                   | f. of what is needed           |
| 7. The big questions will probably    | g. remain unanswered           |
| 8. less ambitious                     | h. than we would like          |
| 9. The clock is                       | i. definitely ticking          |
| 10. be more                           | j. realistic                   |

## GAP FILL:

### Ups and downs at Copenhagen

Things aren't **going** so smoothly at the United Nations climate summit in Copenhagen. There is a lot of mistrust **between** the poorer and rich nations. On Monday, the poor countries walked out of the **talks**. They were very unhappy with what they saw as a lack of progress. In particular, they said the aid **offers** from rich countries were not good enough. They also thought there was too much attention on a **power** struggle between the USA and China. Another huge sticking point was what would happen after the Kyoto Protocol **runs** out. This treaty does not require emission cuts from the USA or China, which together **produce** 40 per cent of the world's pollution. Poorer nations are worried that richer countries want to let the Kyoto Protocol finish and not replace it with **anything**.

Most of the participants in Copenhagen **believe** the final treaty will be a weaker version of what is needed. The **big** questions will probably remain unanswered. The richest countries do not agree on how much they have to **cut** their emissions and how much they have to pay to help developing countries. Brazil's ambassador for climate change Sergio Serra said: "Maybe the **result** you get from here is going to be less ambitious than we would like. But it would be **better** than nothing." The U.S. climate envoy Todd Stern agreed. He said: "We don't have very much time. The **clock** is definitely ticking." An official from Nigeria **attacked** the European Union for not offering enough financial aid. He called their offer "pathetic" and asked them to be more **realistic**.

## LANGUAGE WORK

1 - d    2 - a    3 - c    4 - b    5 - b    6 - c    7 - a    8 - d    9 - d    10 - b    11 - a    12 - c

Ups and downs at Copenhagen - 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2009

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