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Megaupload boss pleads innocence

23rd January, 2012

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1201/120123-megaupload.html>

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1201/120123-megaupload.html>

The founder of the file-sharing website megaupload.com has plead not guilty to charges of Internet piracy and money laundering. Kim Dotcom, aka Kim Schmitz, told a New Zealand court that authorities were doing their best to portray him as a dangerous criminal. His lawyer Paul Davison said: "Mr Dotcom emphatically denies any criminal misconduct or wrongdoing." Authorities in the USA want to extradite Dotcom on charges of abusing intellectual copyright by allowing millions of his site's users to illegally download movies and songs. They say he made \$175 million by distributing copyrighted content. Megaupload's lawyer said his client simply offered an online storage service.

Kim Dotcom is a German national who now lives in a huge mansion amid sprawling grounds in New Zealand. He and three others were arrested on Friday at the request of the FBI. His arrest coincides with a heated debate in the U.S. Congress about new laws to protect intellectual copyright. The Wikipedia website had earlier gone offline for 24 hours in protest at the proposed legislation, called the Stop Online Piracy Act, and the Protect Intellectual Property Act. Police had to cut Dotcom out of a hidden room he had locked himself in. They also found a loaded gun in his house. Police confiscated 18 luxury cars from Mr Dotcom, with license plates including "HACKER", "MAFIA", "STONED" and "KIMCOM".

WARM-UPS

1. FILE SHARING: Walk around the class and talk to other students about file sharing. 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.

founder / not guilty / authorities / criminal / extradite / download movies / copyright / huge mansion / arrested / heated debate / offline / protest / loaded gun / luxury cars

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

3. ILLEGAL: From 0 (legal) – 10 - What is and isn't illegal? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

Legal? / Illegal?	0 - 10	Why?
Downloading movies		
Not returning library books		
Speeding		
Keeping taxable income secret		
Photocopying part of a book		
Punching someone		

4. FILE-SHARING: Students A **strongly** believe there's nothing illegal about it; Students B **strongly** believe there's everything illegal about it. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. COMPUTERS: What's best about them? Rank them and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- Word processing
- E-mail
- Video chat
- File sharing
- Online gaming
- Storing photos, songs, movies...
- Searching the Internet
- Creating things

6. PIRACY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'piracy'. 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/1201/120123-megaupload.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. The boss of megaupload.com says he has done nothing wrong.. | T / F |
| b. The guy says the government is trying to frame him as a wrongdoer. | T / F |
| c. Authorities in the USA want to extradite Kim Dotcom to New Zealand. | T / F |
| d. Mr Dotcom's lawyer said his client only provides online storage. | T / F |
| e. Kim Dotcom is not a citizen of New Zealand. | T / F |
| f. The FBI in the USA do not want to talk to Kim Dotcom. | T / F |
| g. The website Wikipedia said it fully supported Mr Dotcom's actions. | T / F |
| h. Police found a gun in Mr Dotcom's house with no bullets in it. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. founder | a. depict |
| 2. aka | b. just |
| 3. portray | c. suggested |
| 4. content | d. citizen |
| 5. simply | e. argument |
| 6. national | f. creator |
| 7. amid | g. removed |
| 8. debate | h. material |
| 9. proposed | i. in the middle of |
| 10. confiscated | j. also known as |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. The founder of the file- | a. storage service |
| 2. plead | b. gun |
| 3. portray him as | c. copyright |
| 4. charges of abusing intellectual | d. of the FBI |
| 5. offered an online | e. debate |
| 6. a German | f. sharing website |
| 7. at the request | g. plates |
| 8. a heated | h. national |
| 9. a loaded | i. not guilty |
| 10. license | j. a dangerous criminal |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1201/120123-megaupload.html>

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

The founder of the file-(1) _____ website megaupload.com has plead not guilty to (2) _____ of Internet piracy and money laundering. Kim Dotcom, aka Kim Schmitz, told a New Zealand court that authorities were doing their best to (3) _____ him as a dangerous criminal. His lawyer Paul Davison said: "Mr Dotcom emphatically (4) _____ any criminal misconduct or wrongdoing." Authorities in the USA want to (5) _____ Dotcom on charges of (6) _____ intellectual copyright by allowing millions of his site's users to (7) _____ download movies and songs. They say he made \$175 million by distributing copyrighted content. Megaupload's lawyer said his client simply offered an online (8) _____ service.

portray
illegally
extradite
sharing
storage
charges
denies
abusing

Kim Dotcom is a German (9) _____ who now lives in a huge mansion amid sprawling (10) _____ in New Zealand. He and three others were arrested on Friday at the (11) _____ of the FBI. His arrest coincides with a heated debate in the U.S. Congress about new laws to (12) _____ intellectual copyright. The Wikipedia website had earlier gone offline for 24 hours in protest at the (13) _____ legislation, called the Stop Online Piracy Act, and the Protect Intellectual Property Act. Police had to cut Dotcom out of a (14) _____ room he had locked himself in. They also found a (15) _____ gun in his house. Police (16) _____ 18 luxury cars from Mr Dotcom, with license plates including "HACKER", "MAFIA", "STONED" and "KIMCOM".

request
loaded
protect
grounds
confiscated
national
proposed
hidden

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1201/120123-megaupload.html>

The _____-sharing website megaupload.com has plead not guilty to charges of Internet piracy _____. Kim Dotcom, aka Kim Schmitz, told a New Zealand court that authorities were doing _____ him as a dangerous criminal. His lawyer Paul Davison said: "Mr Dotcom emphatically denies any criminal _____." Authorities in the USA want to extradite Dotcom on charges of abusing intellectual _____ millions of his site's users to illegally download movies and songs. They say he made \$175 million by distributing copyrighted content. Megaupload's lawyer said his client simply offered _____ service.

Kim Dotcom is a German national who now lives in a huge mansion _____ in New Zealand. He and three others were arrested on Friday at the request of the FBI. _____ a heated debate in the U.S. Congress about new laws to protect intellectual copyright. The Wikipedia website had _____ for 24 hours in protest at _____, called the Stop Online Piracy Act, and the Protect Intellectual Property Act. Police had to cut Dotcom out of a hidden room he had locked himself in. They also found a _____ his house. Police _____ cars from Mr Dotcom, with license plates including "HACKER", "MAFIA", "STONED" and "KIMCOM".

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1201/120123-megaupload.html>

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

file	share

- 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">• founder• money• USA• abusing• movies• online	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• huge• request• heated• offline• loaded• plates
---	---

FILE SHARING SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1201/120123-megaupload.html>

Write five GOOD questions about file sharing 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.

FILE SHARING 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 word 'upload'?
- c) What do you think of downloading movies and music?
- d) Do you think Mr Dotcom is guilty or not guilty?
- e) How bad do you think Internet piracy is?
- f) What should the punishment be for people who download a movie that is copyright protected?
- g) Can people say they are innocent because they did not know the movie, song, application... was protected by intellectual copyright laws?
- h) Should Mr Dotcom sue the authorities for portraying him in a bad light?
- i) Are file-sharing sites simply online storage services?
- j) Could file sharing eventually kill the music and movie industries?

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FILE SHARING DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Is Mr Dotcom a hero or villain?
- c) Would you be bothered if someone found a way to make us pay for everything we download?
- d) What would you say to an artist losing money because of file sharing?
- e) What is intellectual property?
- f) What do you think will happen to Mr Dotcom?
- g) What do you hope will happen to Mr Dotcom?
- h) Have you ever downloaded something you shouldn't have?
- i) What questions would you like to ask Mr Dotcom?
- j) What do you think his answers might be to those questions?

LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1201/120123-megaupload.html>

The founder of the file-sharing website megaupload.com has plead (1) _____ guilty to charges of Internet piracy and money (2) _____. Kim Dotcom, aka Kim Schmitz, told a New Zealand court that authorities were doing their best to (3) _____ him as a dangerous criminal. His lawyer Paul Davison said: "Mr Dotcom emphatically (4) _____ any criminal misconduct or wrongdoing." Authorities in the USA want to extradite Dotcom on charges of abusing intellectual copyright (5) _____ allowing millions of his site's users to illegally download movies and songs. They say he made \$175 million by distributing copyrighted (6) _____. Megaupload's lawyer said his client simply offered an online storage service.

Kim Dotcom is a German (7) _____ who now lives in a huge mansion amid sprawling grounds in New Zealand. He and three others were arrested on Friday (8) _____ the request of the FBI. His arrest coincides (9) _____ a heated debate in the U.S. Congress about new laws to protect intellectual copyright. The Wikipedia website had (10) _____ gone offline for 24 hours in protest at the proposed legislation, called the Stop Online Piracy Act, and the Protect Intellectual Property Act. Police had to cut Dotcom out of a hidden room he had locked himself in. They also found a (11) _____ gun in his house. Police (12) _____ 18 luxury cars from Mr Dotcom, with license plates including "HACKER", "MAFIA", "STONED" and "KIMCOM".

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) non | (b) no | (c) not | (d) never |
| 2. | (a) washing | (b) laundering | (c) airing | (d) drying |
| 3. | (a) portray | (b) portal | (c) porter | (d) port |
| 4. | (a) attempts | (b) pushes | (c) evaluates | (d) denies |
| 5. | (a) at | (b) of | (c) by | (d) from |
| 6. | (a) glad | (b) insides | (c) content | (d) materialism |
| 7. | (a) border | (b) national | (c) human | (d) German |
| 8. | (a) at | (b) of | (c) is | (d) so |
| 9. | (a) from | (b) with | (c) at | (d) as |
| 10. | (a) earlier | (b) earliest | (c) early | (d) earlyish |
| 11. | (a) load | (b) loads | (c) loading | (d) loaded |
| 12. | (a) confiscating | (b) confiscation | (c) confiscate | (d) confiscated |

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 file sharing. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. FILE SHARING: Make a poster about file sharing. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. MEGAUPLOAD: Write a magazine article about Megaupload.com. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

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 an Internet expert. Ask him/her three questions about file sharing. Give him/her three of your opinions. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

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

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. founder | a. creator |
| 2. aka | b. also known as |
| 3. portray | c. depict |
| 4. content | d. material |
| 5. simply | e. just |
| 6. national | f. citizen |
| 7. amid | g. in the middle of |
| 8. debate | h. argument |
| 9. proposed | i. suggested |
| 10. confiscated | j. removed |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. The founder of the file- | a. sharing website |
| 2. plead | b. not guilty |
| 3. portray him as | c. a dangerous criminal |
| 4. charges of abusing intellectual | d. copyright |
| 5. offered an online | e. storage service |
| 6. a German | f. national |
| 7. at the request | g. of the FBI |
| 8. a heated | h. debate |
| 9. a loaded | i. gun |
| 10. license | j. plates |

GAP FILL:

Megaupload boss pleads innocence

The founder of the file-(1) **sharing** website megaupload.com has plead not guilty to (2) **charges** of Internet piracy and money laundering. Kim Dotcom, aka Kim Schmitz, told a New Zealand court that authorities were doing their best to (3) **portray** him as a dangerous criminal. His lawyer Paul Davison said: "Mr Dotcom emphatically (4) **denies** any criminal misconduct or wrongdoing." Authorities in the USA want to (5) **extradite** Dotcom on charges of (6) **abusing** intellectual copyright by allowing millions of his site's users to (7) **illegally** download movies and songs. They say he made \$175 million by distributing copyrighted content. Megaupload's lawyer said his client simply offered an online (8) **storage** service.

Kim Dotcom is a German (9) **national** who now lives in a huge mansion amid sprawling (10) **grounds** in New Zealand. He and three others were arrested on Friday at the (11) **request** of the FBI. His arrest coincides with a heated debate in the U.S. Congress about new laws to (12) **protect** intellectual copyright. The Wikipedia website had earlier gone offline for 24 hours in protest at the (13) **proposed** legislation, called the Stop Online Piracy Act, and the Protect Intellectual Property Act. Police had to cut Dotcom out of a (14) **hidden** room he had locked himself in. They also found a (15) **loaded** gun in his house. Police (16) **confiscated** 18 luxury cars from Mr Dotcom, with license plates including "HACKER", "MAFIA", "STONED" and "KIMCOM".

LANGUAGE WORK

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