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Level 5

Russia says NATO is its biggest threat

29th December, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141229-nato-5.html>

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Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141229-nato-5.html>

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said NATO is one of Russia's biggest dangers. NATO is a North American and European defence treaty. Countries guarantee to act if any member state is threatened. Tensions between Russia and NATO started after the end of WWII. The rival, Russian-led Warsaw Pact started in 1955 and led to the Cold War intensifying. Relations worsened again last week when former Russian ally Ukraine made new efforts to join NATO. Russia accused NATO of using Ukraine as a "frontline of confrontation".

Mr Putin said that for the first time, Russia would use conventional weapons "as part of strategic deterrent measures" if Russia is under threat. A NATO spokeswoman said the NATO was following international law over Ukraine and was not threatening Russia. She said NATO will assess Ukraine's readiness to join the alliance in the same way as with any other country. She added: "This is an issue between NATO and the individual countries aspiring to membership." She said Russia's actions in Ukraine were breaking international law and threatening European security.

Sources: <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/putin-signs-new-military-doctrine-as-ukraine-moves-toward-nato/513917.html>
<http://www.tehrantimes.com/world/120496-russia-nato-biggest-threat->
<http://www.voanews.com/content/russia-identifies-nato-us-as-major-threats/2574605.html>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141229-nato-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. one of Russia's biggest | a. act |
| 2. defence | b. ally Ukraine |
| 3. guarantee to | c. treaty |
| 4. The rival, Russian- | d. of confrontation |
| 5. Relations worsened | e. dangers |
| 6. former Russian | f. again last week |
| 7. made new efforts | g. led Warsaw Pact |
| 8. using Ukraine as a frontline | h. to join NATO |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. use conventional | a. join the alliance |
| 2. part of strategic deterrent | b. spokeswoman |
| 3. if Russia is under | c. security |
| 4. A NATO | d. weapons |
| 5. NATO was following | e. threat |
| 6. assess Ukraine's readiness to | f. international law |
| 7. an issue between NATO and | g. measures |
| 8. threatening European | h. the individual countries |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141229-nato-5.html>

Russian President Vladimir Putin (1) _____ one of Russia's biggest dangers. NATO is a North American and European defence treaty. Countries (2) _____ if any member state is threatened. Tensions between Russia and NATO (3) _____ of WWII. The rival, Russian-led Warsaw Pact started (4) _____ the Cold War intensifying. Relations (5) _____ week when former Russian ally Ukraine made new efforts to join NATO. Russia accused NATO of using Ukraine as a "(6) _____".

Mr Putin said that for the first time, Russia would (7) _____ "as part of strategic (8) _____" if Russia is under threat. A NATO spokeswoman said the NATO (9) _____ law over Ukraine and was not threatening Russia. She said NATO will assess Ukraine's readiness to (10) _____ in the same way as with any other country. She added: "This (11) _____ NATO and the individual countries aspiring to membership." She said Russia's actions in Ukraine were breaking international law and (12) _____.

NATO SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141229-nato-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about NATO 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)

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)

