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Level 3

Venezuela seizes 4 million toys for its children

13th December, 2016

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

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

The government of Venezuela has seized nearly 4 million children's toys from a toy distributor. It will give the toys to children for free or at discounted prices in time for Christmas. The government says the distributor was unfairly charging high prices for the toys, which meant only the richest people could buy them. Venezuela has one of the highest rates of inflation in the world. This is the rate at which prices go up. The IMF says the rate could be as much as 2,000 per cent in 2017. Many Venezuelans can't afford to buy 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 ordered price cuts on clothes.

In total, the government seized 3,821,926 toys from two warehouses. It tweeted: "Our children are sacred. We will not let anyone rob them at Christmas. Boys and girls of this country will have a happy Christmas." The government said the toy distributor was keeping the toys out of the shops to reduce their supply and so increase prices. The government also accused the company of buying them with dollars it got at very low rates several years ago and now wanted to sell the toys at much higher prices. The toy distributor has said it has done nothing wrong and was not trying to sell the toys at high prices to make huge 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>

WARM-UPS

1. TOYS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about toys. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

government / toys / discounted prices / inflation / essential / minimum salary / price / warehouse / boys / girls / shops / supply / dollars / several years ago / profit / fashion

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

3. TRADITIONAL: Students A **strongly** believe traditional toys are better than computer games; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. TOY REVIEW: Review these toys with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

Toy	How much fun	Exercise	Education	Different uses
Action figure				
Lego				
Toy cars				
Toy kitchen				
Marbles				
Monopoly				

5. PRICE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "price". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. BEST TOYS: Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- action figures
- toy cars
- Lego
- Play-Doh
- Monopoly
- marbles
- jigsaw puzzle
- toy sword

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

- a. Venezuela will give 4 million toys to children for free. **T / F**
- b. The government said toys were priced too high. **T / F**
- c. Venezuela has the highest rate of inflation in the world. **T / F**
- d. Venezuela also reduced the price of clothes recently. **T / F**
- e. The government took toys from a dozen warehouses. **T / F**
- f. The government said the company bought toys using Euro. **T / F**
- g. The toy company said it hadn't done anything wrong. **T / F**
- h. The toy company said many of the toys were no longer in fashion. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. seized | a. additionally |
| 2. free | b. wealthiest |
| 3. richest | c. steal from |
| 4. go up | d. very big |
| 5. cuts | e. taken |
| 6. rob | f. reductions |
| 7. also | g. a number of |
| 8. several | h. without charge |
| 9. wrong | i. increase |
| 10. huge | j. illegal |

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

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. give the toys to children | a. items like toys |
| 2. one of the highest rates | b. at very low rates |
| 3. can't afford to buy non-essential | c. cuts on clothes |
| 4. cost half the monthly minimum | d. profits |
| 5. Venezuela has also ordered price | e. for free |
| 6. keeping the toys out of the shops to | f. of inflation |
| 7. buying them with dollars it got | g. of fashion |
| 8. The toy distributor has said it has | h. salary |
| 9. make huge | i. reduce their supply |
| 10. It said many of the toys were out | j. done nothing wrong |

GAP FILL

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

The government of Venezuela has (1) _____ nearly 4 million children's toys from a toy distributor. It will give the toys to children for (2) _____ or at discounted prices in time for Christmas. The government says the distributor was (3) _____ charging high prices for the toys, which meant only the richest people could buy them. Venezuela has one of the highest (4) _____ of inflation in the world. This is the rate at which prices go up. The IMF says the rate could be as (5) _____ as 2,000 per cent in 2017. Many Venezuelans can't afford to buy non-essential items (6) _____ toys. Even a jar of Nutella can cost half the monthly (7) _____ salary. In the past few months, Venezuela has also ordered price (8) _____ on clothes.

free
much
minimum
seized
cuts
rates
unfairly
like

In (9) _____, the government seized 3,821,926 toys from two warehouses. It tweeted: "Our children are sacred. We will not let (10) _____ rob them at Christmas. Boys and girls of this country will have a happy Christmas." The government said the toy distributor was (11) _____ the toys out of the shops to reduce their (12) _____ and so increase prices. The government also accused the company of buying them with dollars it got at very (13) _____ rates several years ago and now wanted to sell the toys at much higher prices. The toy distributor has said it has done (14) _____ wrong and was not trying to sell the toys at high prices to make (15) _____ profits. It said many of the toys were out of (16) _____.

nothing
total
fashion
keeping
supply
huge
anyone
low

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) It will give the toys to children for free _____ prices
 - a. or that discounted
 - b. or what discounted
 - c. or at discounted
 - d. or rat discounted
- 2) one of the highest rates of inflation in the world. This is the rate at which _____
 - a. prices gone up
 - b. prices go up
 - c. prices going up
 - d. prices goes up
- 3) Many Venezuelans can't afford to buy non-essential _____
 - a. items like toys
 - b. items likes toys
 - c. items liked toys
 - d. items likeable toys
- 4) Even a jar of Nutella can cost half the monthly _____
 - a. minimum solar
 - b. minimum seller
 - c. minimum celery
 - d. minimum salary
- 5) In the past few months, Venezuela has also ordered _____ clothes
 - a. price cuts on
 - b. price cuts in
 - c. price cuts at
 - d. price cuts by
- 6) In total, the government seized 3,821,926 toys from _____
 - a. two were houses
 - b. two where houses
 - c. two wear houses
 - d. two warehouses
- 7) keeping the toys out of the shops to reduce their supply _____ prices
 - a. and so increases
 - b. and so increase
 - c. and so increased
 - d. and so increasing
- 8) accused the company of buying them with dollars it got _____ rates
 - a. that very low
 - b. at very low
 - c. what very low
 - d. tat very low
- 9) ... and was not trying to sell the toys at high prices to _____
 - a. do huge profits
 - b. make huge profits
 - c. sell huge profits
 - d. buy huge profits
- 10) It said many of the toys were _____
 - a. out of fashion
 - b. in of fashion
 - c. outer fashion
 - d. out for fashion

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

The government of Venezuela (1) _____ 4 million children's toys from a toy distributor. It will give the toys to children for free or at discounted (2) _____ Christmas. The government says the distributor was (3) _____ high prices for the toys, which meant only the richest people could buy them. Venezuela has one of the highest rates of inflation in the world. This (4) _____ which prices go up. The IMF says the rate could be as much as 2,000 per cent in 2017. Many Venezuelans can't (5) _____ non-essential items like toys. Even a jar of Nutella can cost half the monthly minimum salary. In (6) _____ months, Venezuela has also ordered price cuts on clothes.

In total, the government seized 3,821,926 (7) _____ warehouses. It tweeted: "Our children are sacred. We will not let anyone rob them at Christmas. Boys and girls of this country (8) _____ Christmas." The government said the toy distributor (9) _____ toys out of the shops to reduce their supply and so increase prices. The government (10) _____ company of buying them with dollars it got at very low rates several years ago and now wanted (11) _____ much higher prices. The toy distributor has said it has done nothing wrong and was not trying to sell the toys at high prices to (12) _____. It said many of the toys were out of fashion.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What kind of prices will the government sell toys at?
2. Who did the government say could buy the high-priced toys?
3. How high could Venezuela's inflation rate be in 2017?
4. What kind of items are difficult for many Venezuelans to buy?
5. What other things did Venezuela order price cuts on?
6. From how many warehouses did the government seize the toys?
7. What did the government say the toy distributor wanted to reduce?
8. What currency did the toy distributor use to buy the toys?
9. What did the toy distributor say it had done?
10. What did the toy distributor say about many of the toys?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What kind of prices will the government sell toys at?
 - a) fair prices
 - b) discounted prices
 - c) good prices
 - d) crazy prices
- 2) Who did the government say could buy the high-priced toys?
 - a) a toy distributor
 - b) tourists
 - c) boys and girls
 - d) richer people
- 3) How high could Venezuela's inflation rate be in 2017?
 - a) 2,000%
 - b) 3,000%
 - c) 4,000%
 - d) 5,000%
- 4) What kind of items are difficult for many Venezuelans to buy?
 - a) items in high supply
 - b) clothes
 - c) non-essential items
 - d) luxury items
- 5) What other things did Venezuela order price cuts on?
 - a) DIY goods
 - b) clothes
 - c) computers
 - d) furniture
- 6) From how many warehouses did the government seize the toys?
 - a) 4
 - b) 3
 - c) 2
 - d) 1
- 7) What did the government say the toy distributor wanted to reduce?
 - a) toys
 - b) prices
 - c) demand
 - d) supply
- 8) What currency did the toy distributor use to buy the toys?
 - a) dollar
 - b) peso
 - c) bolivar
 - d) euro
- 9) What did the toy distributor say it had done?
 - a) nothing wrong
 - b) good
 - c) wonderful things
 - d) apologised
- 10) What did the toy distributor say about many of the toys?
 - a) they were reasonably priced
 - b) they were out of fashion
 - c) they were top quality
 - d) they were the latest

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Action Figures

You think action figures are the best toys. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their toys. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): toy cars, Lego or marbles.

Role B – Toy Cars

You think toy cars are the best toys. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their toys. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): action figures, Lego or marbles.

Role C – Lego Blocks

You think Lego blocks are the best toys. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their toys. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): toy cars, action figures or marbles.

Role D – Marbles

You think marbles are the best toys. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their toys. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): toy cars, Lego or action figures.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

children	toy
-----------------	------------

- 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">• nearly• free• buy• up• 2017• cuts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• two• rob• supply• dollars• nothing• fashion
--	--

TOYS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1612/161213-toys.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.

TOYS DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What springs to mind when you hear the word 'toy'?
3. What do you think about what you read?
4. How important are toys?
5. What do you think of the price of toys?
6. What's the best toy ever?
7. Is the government right to take the toys for the children?
8. What do you know about inflation?
9. Should all governments give children gifts on special days?
10. Should governments tell companies how much to charge for things?

Venezuela seizes 4 million toys for its children – 13th December, 2016
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TOYS DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. Are traditional toys better than today's computer games?
13. What do you think of toys you get free with fast food?
14. How educational should toys be?
15. What was the best toy you ever had?
16. What is wrong with companies making big profits on toys?
17. Why are toys based on cartoon characters so expensive?
18. What toy would you buy for a child?
19. How can toys go out of fashion?
20. What questions would you like to ask the boss of the toy distributor?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

The government of Venezuela has (1) _____ nearly 4 million children's toys from a toy distributor. It will give the toys to children (2) _____ free or at discounted prices in (3) _____ for Christmas. The government says the distributor was unfairly charging high prices for the toys, which meant only the richest people could buy them. Venezuela has one (4) _____ the highest rates of inflation in the world. This is the rate at which prices go up. The IMF says the rate could be as much as 2,000 per cent in 2017. Many Venezuelans can't afford to buy (5) _____-essential items like toys. Even a jar of Nutella can cost half the monthly minimum salary. In the past few months, Venezuela has also ordered price (6) _____ on clothes.

In total, the government seized 3,821,926 toys from two warehouses. It tweeted: "Our children are sacred. We will not let anyone (7) _____ them at Christmas. Boys and girls of this country will have a happy Christmas." The government said the toy distributor was keeping the toys out of the shops to (8) _____ their supply and so increase prices. The government (9) _____ accused the company of buying them with dollars it got at very low rates (10) _____ years ago and now wanted to sell the toys at much higher prices. The toy distributor has said it has done nothing (11) _____ and was not trying to sell the toys at high prices to make huge profits. It said many of the toys were (12) _____ of fashion.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) sized | (b) seized | (c) sneezed | (d) sieved |
| 2. | (a) of | (b) by | (c) at | (d) for |
| 3. | (a) timing | (b) timed | (c) time | (d) times |
| 4. | (a) of | (b) by | (c) at | (d) for |
| 5. | (a) not- | (b) non- | (c) no- | (d) none- |
| 6. | (a) cuts | (b) tears | (c) rips | (d) frays |
| 7. | (a) lob | (b) robe | (c) rob | (d) lobe |
| 8. | (a) reduce | (b) reduction | (c) reduced | (d) reducing |
| 9. | (a) too | (b) more | (c) and | (d) also |
| 10. | (a) civil | (b) servile | (c) several | (d) save all |
| 11. | (a) wrongs | (b) wrongly | (c) wronged | (d) wrong |
| 12. | (a) out | (b) in | (c) up | (d) down |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. The mrvtneqone of Venezuela
2. for free or at cdnesoitd prices
3. unfairly gcganhri high prices
4. the highest rates of ntofaiinl in the world
5. buy non-lnieeatss items like toys
6. cost half the monthly mmmuini salary

Paragraph 2

7. Our children are adrces
8. reduce their suplyp
9. aiseecrn prices
10. veralse years ago
11. make huge fpoitsr
12. the toys were out of shaoifn

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () distributor. It will give the toys to children for free or at discounted prices in time
- () 2017. Many Venezuelans can't afford to buy non-essential items like toys. Even a jar of Nutella can cost half the
- () dollars it got at very low rates several years ago and now wanted to sell the toys at much higher
- () the toys at high prices to make huge profits. It said many of the toys were out of fashion.
- () are sacred. We will not let anyone rob them at Christmas. Boys and girls of this country will have a
- () the richest people could buy them. Venezuela has one of the highest rates of inflation in the
- () happy Christmas." The government said the toy distributor was keeping the toys out of the shops to reduce their
- () world. This is the rate at which prices go up. The IMF says the rate could be as much as 2,000 per cent in
- () prices. The toy distributor has said it has done nothing wrong and was not trying to sell
- () for Christmas. The government says the distributor was unfairly charging high prices for the toys, which meant only
- (**1**) The government of Venezuela has seized nearly 4 million children's toys from a toy
- () In total, the government seized 3,821,926 toys from two warehouses. It tweeted: "Our children
- () monthly minimum salary. In the past few months, Venezuela has also ordered price cuts on clothes.
- () supply and so increase prices. The government also accused the company of buying them with

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. or at discounted prices Give the toys to children for free .
2. the distributor charging for The unfairly prices toys was high .
3. This which is prices the go rate up at .
4. to Many afford non- items can't buy essential Venezuelans .
5. has Venezuela clothes on cuts price ordered also .
6. seized government The warehouses two from toys 3,821,926 .
7. supply Keeping the toys out of the shops to reduce their .
8. at rates with got low them it very Buying dollars .
9. distributor it nothing toy said done The has has wrong .
10. of said the out It of were fashion many toys .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

The government of Venezuela has *seized / sized* nearly 4 million children's toys from a toy distributor. It will give the toys to children for *freely / free* or at discounted prices in *time / timing* for Christmas. The government says the distributor was unfairly *charged / charging* high prices for the toys, which *meant / meaning* only the richest people could buy them. Venezuela has one of the highest rates of inflation in the world. This is the rate *at / as* which prices go up. The IMF says the rate could be as *many / much* as 2,000 per cent in 2017. Many Venezuelans can't *afford / affords* to buy non-essential items like toys. Even a jar of Nutella can cost *halve / half* the monthly minimum salary. In the past few months, Venezuela has also ordered price *cuts / rips* on clothes.

In *totally / total*, the government seized 3,821,926 toys from two warehouses. It tweeted: "Our *children / child* are sacred. We will not let anyone *rob / robe* them at Christmas. Boys and *girls / girl* of this country will have a happy Christmas." The government said the toy distributor was keeping the toys *up / out* of the shops *to / for* reduce their supply and so increase prices. The government *also / and* accused the company of buying them with dollars it got at very low rates several years *age / ago* and now wanted to sell the toys at much higher prices. The toy distributor has said it has done nothing *wrong / wrongly* and was not trying to sell the toys at high prices to make huge profits. It said many of the toys were *out / up* of fashion.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

Th_ g_v_rnm_nt _f V_n_z__l_ h_s s__z_d n__rly 4
m_ll__n ch_ldr_n's t_ys fr_m _t_y d_str_b_t_r. _t w_ll
g_v_ th_ t_ys t_ ch_ldr_n fr fr__ _r _t d_sc__nt_d
pr_c_s _n t_m_ fr Chr_stm_s. Th_ g_v_rnm_nt s_ys
th_ d_str_b_t_r w_s _nf__rly ch_rg_ng h_gh pr_c_s fr
th_ t_ys, wh_ch m__nt _nly th_ r_ch_st p__pl_ c__ld
b_y th_m. V_n_z__l_ h_s _n_ _f th_ h_gh_st r_t_s _f
_nfl_t__n _n th_ w_rld. Th_s _s th_ r_t_ _t wh_ch
pr_c_s g__p. Th_ _MF s_ys th_ r_t_ c__ld b__s m_ch
_s 2,000 p_r c_nt _n 2017. M_ny V_n_z__l_ns c_n't
_ff_rdt t_ b_y n_n-ss_nt__l_t ms l_k_t_ys. _v_n _j_r
_f N_t ll_ c_n c_st h_lf th_ m_nthly m_n_m_m s_l_ry.
n th p_st f_w m_nths, V_n_z__l_ h_s _ls_ _rd_r_d
pr_c_c_ts _n cl_th_s.

_n t_t_l, th_ g_v_rnm_nt s__z_d 3,821,926 t_ys fr_m
tw_ w_r_h__s_s. _t tw__t_d: " __r ch_ldr_n _r_s_cr_d.
W_ w_ll n_t l_t _ny_n_ r_b th_m _t Chr_stm_s. B_ys
_nd g_rls _f th_s c__ntry w_ll h_v_ _h_ppy Chr_stm_s."
Th_ g_v_rnm_nt s__d th_ t_y d_str_b_t_r w_s k__p_ng
th_ t_ys __t _f th_ sh_ps t_r_d_c_ th__r s_pply _nd s_
_ncr__s_ pr_c_s. Th_ g_v_rnm_nt _ls_ _cc_s_d th_
c_mp_ny _f b_y_ng th_m w_th d_ll_rs _t g_t_t v_ry l_w
r_t_s s_v_r_l_y __rs _g_ _nd n_w w_nt_d t_s ll th_ t_ys
_t m_ch h_gh_r pr_c_s. Th_ t_y d_str_b_t_r h_s s__d
_t h_s d_n_ n_th_ng wr_ng _nd w_s n_t try_ng t_s ll
th_ t_ys _t h_gh pr_c_s t_m_k_ h_g_ pr_f_ts. _t s__d
m_ny _f th_ t_ys w_r__ _t _f f_sh__n.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

the government of venezuela has seized nearly 4 million children's toys from a toy distributor it will give the toys to children for free or at discounted prices in time for christmas the government says the distributor was unfairly charging high prices for the toys which meant only the richest people could buy them venezuela has one of the highest rates of inflation in the world this is the rate at which prices go up the imf says the rate could be as much as 2000 per cent in 2017 many venezuelans can't afford to buy 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 ordered price cuts on clothes

in total the government seized 3821926 toys from two warehouses it tweeted "our children are sacred we will not let anyone rob them at christmas boys and girls of this country will have a happy christmas" the government said the toy distributor was keeping the toys out of the shops to reduce their supply and so increase prices the government also accused the company of buying them with dollars it got at very low rates several years ago and now wanted to sell the toys at much higher prices the toy distributor has said it has done nothing wrong and was not trying to sell the toys at high prices to make huge profits it said many of the toys were out of fashion

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

The government of Venezuela has seized nearly 4 million children's toys from a toy distributor. It will give the toys to children for free or at discounted prices in time for Christmas. The government says the distributor was unfairly charging high prices for the toys, which meant only the richest people could buy them. Venezuela has one of the highest rates of inflation in the world. This is the rate at which prices go up. The IMF says the rate could be as much as 2,000 percent in 2017. Many Venezuelans can't afford to buy 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 ordered price cuts on clothes. In total, the government seized 3,821,926 toys from two warehouses. It tweeted: "Our children are sacred. We will not let anyone rob them at Christmas. Boys and girls of this country will have a happy Christmas." The government said the toy distributor was keeping the toys out of the shop to reduce their supply and so increase prices. The government also accused the company of buying them with dollars at very low rates several years ago and now wanted to sell the toys at much higher prices. The toy distributor has said it has done nothing wrong and was not trying to sell the toys at high prices to make huge profits. It said many of the toys were out of fashion.

ACADEMIC WRITING

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

Computer games are better than toys. Discuss.

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 this story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. TOYS: Make a poster about toys. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. TRADITIONAL TOYS: Write a magazine article about children only needing traditional toys. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

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. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on toys. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on what the best toys are for children, and why. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|------------|-------------------|
| 1. seized | a. taken |
| 2. free | b. without charge |
| 3. richest | c. wealthiest |
| 4. go up | d. increase |
| 5. cuts | e. reductions |
| 6. rob | f. steal from |
| 7. also | g. additionally |
| 8. several | h. a number of |
| 9. wrong | i. illegal |
| 10. huge | j. very big |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Discounted prices
2. Richer people
3. 2,000%
4. Non-essential items (like toys)
5. Clothes
6. Two
7. Supply
8. Dollars
9. Nothing wrong
10. They were out of fashion

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. b 2. d 3. a 4. c 5. b 6. c 7. d 8. a 9. a 10. b

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)