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## **Bush & Blair attacked by Mugabe & Chavez**

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**18 October, 2005**

## **THE ARTICLE**

### **Bush & Blair attacked by Mugabe & Chavez**

Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Venezuela's Hugo Chavez have attacked U.S. President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair. They blame the American and British leaders for being the main causes of world hunger, pollution and war. At an event in Rome on October 17 to celebrate World Food Day, Mugabe said, "Blair and Bush are two unholy men of our millennium" and compared them to Hitler and Mussolini. Chavez called the US "the North American empire that threatened all life on the planet". Chavez and Mugabe received applause and cheers from many delegates.

US ambassador Tony Hall quickly hit back. He was unhappy that Mugabe and Chavez "chose to politicize an event that was meant to be about feeding the hungry people of the world". Hall said Mugabe's presence in Rome was like a bad joke, especially as Zimbabwe is currently struggling to feed an estimated 3.8 million people. "Mugabe...would be the last person, I think, an organization should invite to talk about hunger," Hall said. Zimbabwe's agriculture is now in ruins and has been hit by drought. Mr. Mugabe blames British colonial rule for his country's poor economy.

## WARM-UPS

**1. HELLO GEORGE:** In pairs / groups, role play a sudden meeting between your country's leader and either George W. Bush, Tony Blair, Robert Mugabe or Hugo Chavez. You all meet by chance when you sit at the same table in a coffee shop. Repeat the role plays with different partners and roles. Change partners again and talk about what you said and heard while in your roles.

**2. POPULAR LEADERS:** Is the leader of your country very popular? What are his/her successes and failures? Talk about the popularity, successes and failures of the following leaders, or choose others you'd prefer to talk about.

- Robert Mugabe
- George W. Bush
- Hugo Chavez
- Tony Blair
- Ariel Sharon
- Pervez Musharraf
- Vladimir Putin
- Junichiro Koizumi
- Hosni Mubarak
- Jacques Chirac

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

*Zimbabwe / Venezuela / world hunger / pollution / war / Hitler / Mussolini / applause and cheering / Rome / bad jokes / agriculture / colonialism*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

**4. WORLD FOOD DAY:** In pairs / groups, talk about what you know about World Food Day. What should happen around the world on this day? What do you think the aims of this day should be?

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

**6. MUGABE OPINIONS:** In pairs / groups, talk about what you think of these opinions that Robert Mugabe expressed on World Food Day:

- a. Bush and Blair can't decide who rules in Africa, Asia, Iran or Iraq.
- b. Many black Africans are poor today because of British colonialism.
- c. The financial help rich countries give their farmers is hurting African farmers.
- d. America and Britain are the real terrorists.
- e. America and Britain are taking part in an "unholy campaign in Iraq".
- f. The Bush and Blair partnership is the same as that between Hitler and Mussolini.
- g. Land reforms in Zimbabwe are necessary to help Zimbabweans.
- h. Bush and Blair attacked an innocent country (Iraq).

## BEFORE READING / LISTENING

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a. Robert Mugabe and Hugo Chavez hit George Bush and Tony Blair.       | T / F |
| b. Mugabe and Chavez were speaking in Rome on World Friendship Day.    | T / F |
| c. Mugabe said Bush and Blair were similar to Hitler and Mussolini.    | T / F |
| d. Delegates at the conference booed Mr. Mugabe and Mr. Chavez.        | T / F |
| e. The US ambassador said Mugabe should not have talked politics.      | T / F |
| f. Zimbabwe has 3.8 million hungry people.                             | T / F |
| g. The ambassador said Mugabe is the last person to talk about hunger. | T / F |
| h. Mr. Mugabe blamed Britain for the poor Zimbabwean economy.          | T / F |

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

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| a. attacked   | likened         |
| b. main       | ask             |
| c. compared   | decided         |
| d. applause   | criticized      |
| e. delegates  | fighting        |
| f. chose      | struck          |
| g. currently  | clapping        |
| h. struggling | primary         |
| i. invite     | presently       |
| j. hit        | representatives |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| a. the main causes of                  | to Hitler and Mussolini         |
| b. an event in Rome on October 17      | on the planet                   |
| c. compared them                       | joke                            |
| d. threatened all life                 | hit back                        |
| e. Mugabe received applause            | world hunger, pollution and war |
| f. US ambassador Tony Hall quickly     | for his country's poor economy  |
| g. feeding the hungry                  | and cheers from many delegates  |
| h. a bad                               | ruins                           |
| i. Zimbabwe's agriculture is now in    | to celebrate World Food Day     |
| j. Mugabe blames British colonial rule | people of the world             |

## WHILE READING / LISTENING

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

### Bush & Blair attacked by Mugabe & Chavez

Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Venezuela's Hugo Chavez have \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair. They \_\_\_\_\_ the American and British \_\_\_\_\_ for being the \_\_\_\_\_ causes of world hunger, pollution and war. At an \_\_\_\_\_ in Rome on October 17 to celebrate World Food Day, Mugabe said, "Blair and Bush are two unholy men of our millennium" and \_\_\_\_\_ them to Hitler and Mussolini. Chavez called the US "the North American empire that \_\_\_\_\_ all life on the planet". Chavez and Mugabe received applause and \_\_\_\_\_ from many delegates.

US ambassador Tony Hall quickly \_\_\_\_\_ back. He was unhappy that Mugabe and Chavez "\_\_\_\_\_ to politicize an event that was meant to be about \_\_\_\_\_ the hungry people of the world". Hall said Mugabe's \_\_\_\_\_ in Rome was like a bad \_\_\_\_\_, especially as Zimbabwe is currently struggling to feed an \_\_\_\_\_ 3.8 million people. "Mugabe...would be the last person, I think, an organization should \_\_\_\_\_ to talk about hunger," Hall said. Zimbabwe's agriculture is now in ruins and has been \_\_\_\_\_ by drought. Mr. Mugabe blames British colonial rule for his country's poor economy.

*compared*  
*blame*  
*event*  
*cheers*  
*main*  
*attacked*  
*threatened*  
*leaders*  
  
*invite*  
*presence*  
*estimated*  
*hit*  
*feeding*  
*joke*  
*hit*  
*chose*

## **LISTENING**

Listen and fill in the spaces.

### **Bush & Blair attacked by Mugabe & Chavez**

Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Venezuela's Hugo Chavez have \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair. They \_\_\_\_\_ the American and British leaders for being the main causes of world \_\_\_\_\_, pollution and war. At an event in Rome on October 17 to celebrate World Food Day, Mugabe said, "Blair and Bush are two unholy men of our millennium" and \_\_\_\_\_ them to Hitler and Mussolini. Chavez called the US "the North American \_\_\_\_\_ that threatened all life on the planet". Chavez and Mugabe received applause and \_\_\_\_\_ from many delegates.

US ambassador Tony Hall quickly \_\_\_\_\_. He was unhappy that Mugabe and Chavez "chose to politicize an event that was meant to be about \_\_\_\_\_ the hungry people of the world". Hall said Mugabe's presence in Rome was like a \_\_\_\_\_, especially as Zimbabwe is currently struggling to feed an estimated 3.8 million people. "Mugabe...would be the \_\_\_\_\_ person, I think, an organization should \_\_\_\_\_ to talk about hunger," Hall said. Zimbabwe's agriculture is now in ruins and has been hit by drought. Mr. Mugabe blames British colonial rule for his country's \_\_\_\_\_ economy.

## **AFTER READING / LISTENING**

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

- 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 gap fill. 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. STUDENT "WORLD HUNGER" SURVEY:** In pairs / groups, write down questions about world hunger.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

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

- |             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| • attacked  | • hit back |
| • blame     | • feeding  |
| • celebrate | • joke     |
| • compared  | • 3.8      |
| • empire    | • drought  |
| • cheers    | • British  |

## **DISCUSSION**

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

- a. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- b. What do you think of the attack on Mr. Bush and Mr. Blair?
- c. Which of the four leaders named in the article do you most and least like?
- d. Do you think George W. Bush and Tony Blair cause hunger, pollution and war?
- e. Do you think George W. Bush and Tony Blair are "unholy"?
- f. Do you think Hugo Chavez and Robert Mugabe act to stop world hunger?
- g. What do you think of the comparison with Hitler and Mussolini?
- h. Do you think George W. Bush and Tony Blair have made the world a better place?
- i. What do you think are the solutions to end world hunger?
- j. Who is the last person in the world you want to talk to?

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

- a. Did you like reading this article?
- b. What do you think about what you read?
- c. Do you think it was right to make these speeches at a World Food Day event?
- d. Should Mr. Mugabe have spoken at the event?
- e. Why do you think many delegates cheered and applauded Mugabe and Chavez?
- f. Do you think "the North American empire" threatens "all life on the planet"?
- g. Do you agree with ambassador Hall's comments that Mugabe making a speech was like a bad joke?
- h. Do you think British colonial rule is to blame for Zimbabwe's poor economy?
- i. How do you think Mr. Bush and Mr. Blair might say about the speeches?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

**AFTER DISCUSSION:** Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a. What question would you like to ask about this topic?
- b. What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- c. Was there a question you didn't like?
- d. Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- e. What did you like talking about?
- f. Do you want to know how anyone else answered the questions?
- g. Which was the most difficult question?



## **SPEAKING**

**WORLD LEADER:** The world must choose a leader. There is a choice of two people – George W. Bush and Tony Blair. In pairs / groups, discuss which of the two men should get the job. Talk about the points in the left hand column. Put a mark out of ten for the two men in the middle columns and give the reasons for this mark in the right hand column.

POINTS	BUSH/10	BLAIR/10	REASON(S)
Vision			
Intelligence			
Speech-giving skills			
Past successes			
Leadership			
Fashion			
Popularity			
Other			

Change partners and show each other your scores. Do you agree with each other's reasons?

Discuss what the world would be like with your choice of man as leader.

Which country's leader (except George Bush and Tony Blair) do you think would make the best world leader and why?

## **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 more information on World Food Day. Share your findings with your class in the next lesson.

**3. HUNGER:** Make a poster outlining the places in the world where people suffer from hunger. Think of some solutions to stop so many of the world's poor people from dying of hunger. Show your posters to your classmates in your next lesson. Did you all think of similar solutions?

**4. LETTER:** Write a letter to Mr. Mugabe or Mr. Chavez (or both). Tell them what you think of their speeches at the World Food Day event in Rome. Show what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all write about similar things?

## ANSWERS

### TRUE / FALSE:

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

### SYNONYM MATCH:

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| a. attacked   | criticized      |
| b. main       | primary         |
| c. compared   | likened         |
| d. applause   | clapping        |
| e. delegates  | representatives |
| f. chose      | decided         |
| g. currently  | presently       |
| h. struggling | fighting        |
| i. invite     | ask             |
| j. hit        | struck          |

### PHRASE MATCH:

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| a. the main causes of                  | world hunger, pollution and war |
| b. an event in Rome on October 17      | to celebrate World Food Day     |
| c. compared them                       | to Hitler and Mussolini         |
| d. threatened all life                 | on the planet                   |
| e. Mugabe received applause            | and cheers from many delegates  |
| f. US ambassador Tony Hall quickly     | hit back                        |
| g. feeding the hungry                  | people of the world             |
| h. a bad                               | joke                            |
| i. Zimbabwe's agriculture is now in    | ruins                           |
| j. Mugabe blames British colonial rule | for his country's poor economy  |

### GAP FILL:

#### **Bush & Blair attacked by Mugabe & Chavez**

Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Venezuela's Hugo Chavez have **attacked** U.S. President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair. They **blame** the American and British **leaders** for being the **main** causes of world hunger, pollution and war. At an **event** in Rome on October 17 to celebrate World Food Day, Mugabe said, "Blair and Bush are two unholy men of our millennium" and **compared** them to Hitler and Mussolini. Chavez called the US "the North American empire that **threatened** all life on the planet". Chavez and Mugabe received applause and **cheers** from many delegates.

US ambassador Tony Hall quickly **hit** back. He was unhappy that Mugabe and Chavez "**chose** to politicize an event that was meant to be about **feeding** the hungry people of the world". Hall said Mugabe's **presence** in Rome was like a bad **joke**, especially as Zimbabwe is currently struggling to feed an **estimated** 3.8 million people. "Mugabe...would be the last person, I think, an organization should **invite** to talk about hunger," Hall said. Zimbabwe's agriculture is now in ruins and has been **hit** by drought. Mr. Mugabe blames British colonial rule for his country's poor economy.