

FBI boss thought his firing was a joke

12th May, 2017



President Trump has fired James Comey, the now former Director and boss of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). It is only the second time in US history for the boss of the FBI to be

fired. Mr Comey at first thought the news of his firing was a prank and he didn't believe it. He was in Los Angeles to address employees at an FBI field office. While talking to FBI agents, he saw a news program reporting on the fact that President Trump had removed him from his position. FBI staff then confirmed to Mr Comey that he had indeed been fired. The White House hand delivered a letter from President Trump to Mr Comey at his Washington office informing him of his firing, but Comey was not there to receive it.

The sacking is now a huge political story in the USA. Many newspapers and TV news stations are saying Mr Comey was fired because he was investigating President Trump's alleged links to Russia. Journalists are saying the sacking is to try to cover up a scandal concerning President Trump and Russia. The White House denied this, saying the sacking had nothing to do with Russia. Officials stated that Comey was removed from his position because of his mishandling of investigations into Hillary Clinton's e-mails when she was Secretary of State. They said this left him unable to effectively lead the FBI. President Trump said it was time for a "new beginning" at the USA's "crown jewel of law enforcement".

Sources: news.sky.com / the.hill.com / vox.com

Writing

President Trump has been a great and strong President so far. Discuss?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

fired / director / boss / FBI/ / prank / address / agents / news / letter / office / political / newspapers / investigating / scandal / officials / mishandling / e-mails

True / False

- James Comey becomes the second FBI boss in US history to be fired. T / F
- Mr Comey still thinks his firing is a prank. T / F
- Comey was in his office in Washington when he heard the news. T / F
- President Trump e-mailed Mr Comey the news of his firing. T / F
- The news said Mr Comey was investigating Mr Trump's links to Russia. T / F
- The White House denied the sacking was part of a cover up. T / F
- Officials said Comey was fired because of an investigation into e-mails. T / F
- Donald Trump said the FBI was the crown jewel of law enforcement. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. fired | a. enormous |
| 2. prank | b. initially |
| 3. address | c. successfully |
| 4. at first | d. talk to |
| 5. informing | e. supposed |
| 6. huge | f. sacked |
| 7. alleged | g. finest example |
| 8. mishandling | h. telling |
| 9. effectively | i. practical joke |
| 10. crown jewel | j. bungling |

Discussion – Student A

- What springs to mind when you hear the name Donald Trump?
- What do you know about the FBI?
- How big is this news in your country?
- Has anyone ever played a prank on you?
- What do you think of US politics?
- Why is this such big news?
- Do you think the firing will change things in the FBI?
- What is your country's equivalent of the FBI?

Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. the now | a. been fired |
| 2. It is only the second time | b. on the fact |
| 3. the news of his firing | c. new beginning |
| 4. a news program reporting | d. in US history |
| 5. he had indeed | e. political story |
| 6. The sacking is now a huge | f. up a scandal |
| 7. Trump's alleged | g. former Director and boss |
| 8. the sacking is to try to cover | h. to do with Russia |
| 9. the sacking had nothing | i. was a prank |
| 10. it was time for a | j. links to Russia |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What's the latest big political story in your country?
- What do you know about the story alleging Trump's links to Russia?
- What would happen if the scandal turned out to be true?
- Do you think news organizations in the US are out to get Mr Trump?
- What do you know about the Hillary Clinton e-mail story?
- How is Donald Trump doing as US President?
- What questions would you like to ask James Comey?

Spelling

- the now eorrfm Director and boss
- Federal ruaBeu of Investigation
- in Los Angeles to rdadses employees
- talking to FBI gaestn
- hand drdeeielv a letter
- niringfom him of his firing
- a huge liaitlpcu story
- he was taisetngvgin President Trump
- aedlegl links to Russia
- his nhsaldimnig of investigations
- etevifcflye lead the FBI
- crown elejw

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. d	4. b	5. h
6. a	7. e	8. j	9. c	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Political Scandal

You think political scandal is the best news to read about. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their kind of news. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): sports, celebrity gossip or happy news.

Role B – Sports

You think sports is the best news to read about. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their kind of news. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): political scandal, celebrity gossip or happy news.

Role C – Celebrity Gossip

You think celebrity gossip is the best news to read about. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their kind of news. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): sports, political scandal or happy news.

Role D – Happy News

You think happy news is the best news to read about. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their kind of news. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): sports, celebrity gossip or political scandal.

Speaking – News Stories

Rank these with your partner. Put the best news stories at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| • medical breakthrough | • political scandal |
| • celebrity gossip | • sports |
| • happy news | • environment |
| • about your leader | • new inventions |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.