

# www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES  
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

[www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html)

**Thousands more free lessons  
from Sean's other websites**

[www.freematerials.com/sean\\_banville\\_lessons.html](http://www.freematerials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html)

## **Level 1**

# **Major breakthrough in US-Cuba relations**

**19th December, 2014**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141219-us-cuba-relations-1.html>

## **Contents**

The Reading	2
Vocabulary Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Writing and Speaking	6
Writing	7

Try Level 0 (easier), Level 2 (harder) & the 26–page Level 3 (harder).

**Twitter**



[twitter.com/SeanBanville](https://twitter.com/SeanBanville)

**Facebook**



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

**Google +**



<https://plus.google.com/+SeanBanville>

# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141219-us-cuba-relations-1.html>

New relations are starting between the USA and Cuba. It will be the first time for over fifty years. President Barack Obama said he wanted to get relations with Cuba back to normal. He wants to restart diplomatic and economic ties and break free from the past. Cuban President Raul Castro said: "We have agreed to re-establish diplomatic relations." The two sides have talked secretly for over a year, with help from Pope Francis.

The USA will do many things to reset relations. It will no longer say that Cuba supports terrorism. Americans will be able to travel to and do business in Cuba. There will be Internet and communication links. A big change is the restart of trade between the two countries. There has been none since 1960. Mr Castro said he has worked hard to restore ties with the USA. He said: "We must learn the art of coexisting with our differences."

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-30516740>  
<http://www.havanatimes.org/?p=107963>  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/18/opinion/a-new-beginning-with-cuba.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/18/opinion/a-new-beginning-with-cuba.html?_r=0)

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141219-us-cuba-relations-1.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. New relations are         | a. back to normal           |
| 2. the first time for        | b. secretly for over a year |
| 3. get relations with Cuba   | c. starting                 |
| 4. restart diplomatic        | d. from Pope Francis        |
| 5. break free                | e. and economic ties        |
| 6. re-establish diplomatic   | f. over fifty years         |
| 7. The two sides have talked | g. relations                |
| 8. with help                 | h. from the past            |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. The USA will do many things  | a. communication links |
| 2. It will no                   | b. our differences     |
| 3. travel to and do             | c. since 1960          |
| 4. Internet and                 | d. to reset relations  |
| 5. the restart of trade between | e. business in Cuba    |
| 6. There has been none          | f. learn               |
| 7. We must                      | g. longer say          |
| 8. the art of coexisting with   | h. the two countries   |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141219-us-cuba-relations-1.html>

New relations (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the USA and Cuba. It will be the first (2) \_\_\_\_\_ fifty years. President Barack Obama said he wanted (3) \_\_\_\_\_ with Cuba back to normal. He wants to restart diplomatic and economic ties and (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the past. Cuban President Raul Castro said: "We have (5) \_\_\_\_\_ diplomatic relations." The two sides have talked secretly for over a year, (6) \_\_\_\_\_ Pope Francis.

The USA will (7) \_\_\_\_\_ reset relations. It will no longer say that Cuba supports terrorism. Americans will be able to travel (8) \_\_\_\_\_ in Cuba. There will be Internet and communication links. A big (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of trade between the two countries. There has been (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Mr Castro said he has worked hard (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the USA. He said: "We must learn the art of coexisting (12) \_\_\_\_\_."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141219-us-cuba-relations-1.html>

New relations are starting between the USA and Cuba. It will be the first time for over fifty years. President Barack Obama said he wanted to get relations with Cuba back to normal. He wants to restart diplomatic and economic ties and break free from the past. Cuban President Raul Castro said: "We have agreed to re-establish diplomatic relations." The two sides have talked secretly for over a year, with help from Pope Francis. The USA will do many things to reset relations. It will no longer say that Cuba supports terrorism. Americans will be able to travel to and do business in Cuba. There will be Internet and communication links. A big change is the restart of trade between the two countries. There has been none since 1960. Mr Castro said he has worked hard to restore ties with the USA. He said: "We must learn the art of coexisting with our differences."

## 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)

---

*Major breakthrough in US-Cuba relations – 19th December, 2014*  
More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com)

---

## 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)

---

