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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 15/02/14

Edward Snowden on German TV

Recently the National Security Agency (NSA) whistleblower Edward Snowden was interviewed by German TV channel ARD. In it he said the NSA is involved in industrial espionage. He added that the NSA takes intelligence regardless of its value to national security. Snowden cited German engineering firm Siemens as one target. Snowden also revealed he no longer had possession of any documents or information on NSA activities. He has though turned everything over to select journalists.

Reports that the NSA monitored Chancellor Angela Merkel's mobile phone angered many in Germany, which has been pushing for a "no-spy" agreement with the US, a country it considers to be among its closest allies. Snowden acknowledged his life was in danger for leaking the documents but he added he sleeps well at night because he believes he did the right thing by informing the public about the NSA's activities.

In January the New York Times reported the NSA put software in almost 100,000 computers around the world, allowing it to carry out surveillance on those devices fearing cyberattacks. The NSA planted the software after gaining access to computer networks. It also used a secret technology that allows it entry even to computers not connected to the internet, the newspaper said. The programme called Quantum included Chinese military and industrial targets.

Snowden faces criminal charges after fleeing to Hong Kong and then Russia, where he was granted at least a year's asylum. He was charged with theft of government property, unauthorised communication of national security information and giving classified intelligence data to an unauthorised person.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about Edward Snowden. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Name the whistleblower.
- 2) What does 'whistleblower' mean?
- 3) What does 'NSA' stand for?
- 4) Which European leader had her phone bugged?
- 5) What is a 'cyberattack'?

Student B questions

- 1) Name the secret programme.
- 2) What does Snowden face if he returns to the US?
- 3) Where is Edward Snowden now?
- 4) Name the newspaper.
- 5) What did the newspaper say?

**Category: Technology / Edward Snowden / NSA
Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

Edward Snowden on German TV - 15th February 2014

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Edward Snowden**'. *One-two minutes.* Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – **NSA spying** – From the article choose three things about NSA spying. Write them below. Talk about them.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three other things you know about the NSA Discuss together. What are your conclusions?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs, write down three other famous spies. Talk about them. *5 mins.*

The teacher will choose some students to read out their results to the class then discuss the findings.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What do you think of Edward Snowden?
- 3) Was Mrs Merkel right to be annoyed at the Americans for listening to her private phone calls?
- 4) A US government board has said NSA spying is illegal? Do you agree?
- 5) "Leaky" Smartphone apps are said to be too easy targets for UK and USA spy programmes to spy on you. Are you worried?
- 6) Did Edward Snowden do the right thing?
- 7) Have 'the Americans' lost credibility having at first denied all about these spying activities?
- 8) Why is the general public being spied on so much?
- 9) Would you like to be a spy?
- 10) Have you learnt anything today?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. There are up to four guests. You are in the CNN TV studio in Atlanta, USA. Today's interview is: *Edward Snowden on German TV. 10 mins.*

- 1) An NSA spokesman/US Congressman.
- 2) A Guardian newspaper journalist.
- 3) The President of the USA.
- 4) Edward Snowden on a video link.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. Student A is a journalist. Student B is Edward Snowden. The journalist is interviewing Edward Snowden. *5 mins.*

SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Edward Snowden – Traitor or hero?

or

The latest NSA (USA) or GCHQ (UK) 'we're spying on you' app/pc published news

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Do you think Edward Snowden was right to do what he did?
- 3) Is the world a safer place today because of Snowden?
- 4) Why did Snowden risk his life to alert the world on what NSA is doing?
- 5) Does anyone hack into your computer?
- 6) How do you know if the NSA has downloaded any spy programme onto your computer?
- 7) Should Edward Snowden return to the USA?
- 8) In light of the Edward Snowden revelations would you trust any American Congressmen or the president of the USA on these issues?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Edward Snowden on German TV

Recently the National Security Agency (NSA) (1)___ Edward Snowden was interviewed by German TV channel ARD. In it he said the NSA is involved in industrial (2)___ . He added that the NSA takes intelligence regardless of its value to national security. Snowden cited German engineering firm Siemens as one (3)___ . Snowden also revealed he no longer had possession of any documents or information on NSA (4)___ . He has though turned everything over to (5)___ journalists.

Reports that the NSA monitored Chancellor Angela Merkel's mobile phone angered many in Germany, which has been pushing for a "no-spy" agreement with the US, a country it considers to be among its closest (6)___ . Snowden acknowledged his life was in danger for leaking the (7)___ but he added he sleeps well at night because he believes he did the right thing by informing the (8)___ about the NSA's activities.

public / whistleblower / allies / activities / target / select / espionage / documents

In January the New York Times reported the NSA put (1)___ in almost 100,000 (2)___ around the world, allowing it to carry out surveillance on those devices fearing (3)___ . The NSA planted the software after gaining access to computer networks. It also used a (4)___ technology that allows it entry even to computers not connected to the internet, the newspaper said. The programme called Quantum included Chinese military and industrial targets.

Snowden faces criminal charges after fleeing to Hong Kong and then Russia, where he was granted at least a year's (5)___ . He was charged with (6)___ of government property, unauthorised (7)___ of national security information and giving classified intelligence (8)___ to an unauthorised person.

computers / software / secret / asylum / data / communication / cyberattacks / theft

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Edward Snowden on German TV

Recently the National Security Agency (NSA) whistleblower Edward Snowden was interviewed by German TV channel ARD. In it he said the NSA is involved in industrial espionage. He added (1)___ the NSA takes intelligence regardless of its value to national security. Snowden cited German engineering firm Siemens as one target. Snowden (2)___ revealed he no longer had possession of (3)___ documents or information on NSA activities. He has (4)___ turned everything over to select journalists.

Reports that the NSA monitored Chancellor Angela Merkel's mobile phone angered (5)___ in Germany, (6)___ has been pushing for a "no-spy" agreement (7)___ the US, a country it considers to be among its closest allies. Snowden acknowledged his life was in danger for leaking the documents (8)___ he added he sleeps well at night because he believes he did the right thing by informing the public about the NSA's activities.

which / though / but / that / with / also / many / any

(1)___ January the New York Times reported the NSA put software in almost 100,000 computers around the world, allowing it to carry out surveillance (2)___ those devices fearing cyberattacks. The NSA planted the software after gaining access to computer networks. It also used (3)___ secret technology that allows (4)___ entry even to computers not connected to the internet, the newspaper said. The programme called Quantum included Chinese military and industrial targets.

Snowden faces criminal charges after fleeing to Hong Kong and then Russia, where (5)___ was granted (6)___ least a year's asylum. He was charged with theft (7)___ government property, unauthorised communication of national security information and giving classified intelligence data to (8)___ unauthorised person.

an / of / in / he / it / on / at / a

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Edward Snowden on German TV

Recently the _____ (NSA) whistleblower Edward Snowden was interviewed by German TV channel ARD. In it he said the NSA is involved in _____. He added that the NSA takes intelligence regardless of its value to national security. Snowden cited German engineering firm Siemens as one target. Snowden also revealed he no longer had possession of any documents or information on NSA activities. He has though _____ turned _____ everything over _____.

Reports that the NSA monitored Chancellor Angela Merkel's _____ many in Germany, which has been pushing for a "no-spy" agreement with the US, a country it considers to be among its closest allies. Snowden acknowledged his life was in danger for leaking the documents but he added he _____ because he believes he did the right thing by informing the public about the NSA's activities.

In January _____ reported the NSA put software in almost 100,000 computers around the world, allowing it to _____ on those devices fearing cyberattacks. The NSA planted the software after gaining access to computer networks. It also used a secret technology that allows it entry _____ connected to the internet, the newspaper said. The programme called Quantum included Chinese military and industrial targets.

Snowden faces _____ after fleeing to Hong Kong and then Russia, where he was granted at least a year's asylum. He was charged with theft of government property, unauthorised communication of national security information and giving classified intelligence data to an _____.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - In pairs, as a class - write down 20 things you know about **Edward Snowden**. Talk about them! 5 mins.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Edward Snowden _____
- 2) I spy _____
- 3) Hackers _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Edward Snowden**. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) whistleblower
- 2) espionage
- 3) target
- 4) activities
- 5) select
- 6) allies
- 7) documents
- 8) public

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) whistleblower
- 2) espionage
- 3) intelligence
- 4) regardless
- 5) possession
- 6) documents
- 7) information
- 8) activities
- 9) journalists
- 10) theft

ANSWERS

- 1) software
- 2) computers
- 3) cyberattacks
- 4) secret
- 5) asylum
- 6) theft
- 7) communication
- 8) data

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) acknowledged
- 12) because
- 13) software
- 14) surveillance
- 15) cyberattacks
- 16) technology
- 17) targets
- 18) criminal
- 19) asylum
- 20) unauthorised

Edward Snowden on German TV - *15th February 2014*