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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 15/06/13

## PRISM could be watching you!

Recently Britain's *Guardian* newspaper made headline news when it published details about the US government's controversial monitoring program called *PRISM*. What is that? It's a mechanism the US government uses to spy on its population. It also helps them keep track of their citizens who live abroad.

According to *The Huffington Post* the US government uses the program to also spy on other countries. British Foreign Secretary William Hague has said GCHQ has not been using the system, yet the eavesdropping agency refuses to confirm or deny links to it. *The Daily Telegraph* newspaper in the UK reports the *National Security Agency* has launched a criminal probe into the leak of the highly classified information about the secret surveillance programs.

President Obama has said "no one is listening to your calls". Yet according to *CNN* his government records the details of millions of Americans video chats, phone calls, texts and emails from overseas. It says there is more to the government's surveillance programs that what's been acknowledged. One senator said the *PRISM* program has been operating for seven years!

*The Washington Post* and *Guardian* said the *PRISM* program allows the US government to monitor emails, photos, search histories and other data from some of America's biggest companies including; Facebook, Google, Yahoo, AOL, Microsoft and Apple. Facebook boss Mark Zuckerberg called the reports "outrageous". He said Facebook "is not and never has been a part of any program to give the US or any other government direct access to our servers". Other tech companies named in the report have also denied having knowledge of *PRISM* or giving the American government direct access to their servers.

### SPEAKING

Think of three different ways to spy on someone. 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 secret program.
- 2) Name three newspapers.
- 3) Name the president.
- 4) Name the British eavesdropping agency.
- 5) What did the American president say?

#### Student B questions

- 1) Name three tech companies.
- 2) What did Mark Zuckerberg say?
- 3) What did other tech giants say?
- 4) What did the senator say?
- 5) What is *PRISM*?

**Category: PRISM / Spying / Big Brother  
Level Intermediate / Upper  
Intermediate**

## PRISM could be watching you! – 15<sup>th</sup> June 2013

### WRITING / SPEAKING

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

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* choose three famous spy agencies and three famous spies.

Write them below.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Add** three famous spy movies and three songs about spies. Discuss together.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_

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

### SPEAKING

*Student A* – thinks PRISM is nothing to worry about and is a good idea. *Student B* thinks PRISM is Orwellian and should be outlawed. Discuss together. *2 mins*

*The teacher* will choose some students to listen to their discussion in front of the class.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What do you think of PRISM?
- 3) Should the Guardian newspaper have published the story?
- 4) Is it right the American government can spy on citizens?
- 5) What makes a good spy?
- 6) Is Big Data turning governments into 'Big Brother'?
- 7) How does high tech come into spying these days?
- 8) Is your computer hacked into by anyone?
- 9) How do the EU's data protection laws come into this?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the CNN TV studio. Today's interview is about: *PRISM could be watching you!*

- 1) A senior US government spokesperson
- 2) Head of CNN
- 3) Editor of the Guardian newspaper
- 4) Editor of The Washington Post

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

### SPEAKING - GAME

*In groups.* "I spy with my little eye"

Go round the room. The teacher can select students who have to choose something in the room.

### SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

*Discuss the following...*

**PRISM could be watching you!**

*The teacher* can moderate the session.

### SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

*In groups.* Talk about the different spy agencies you know about. Would you like to work for one of them?

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Would you like the American government spying on you?
- 3) Would you like to be a spy?
- 4) Why has this story made headline news worldwide?
- 5) Are other social networks on the American governments list to spy on?
- 6) Why are the big tech companies denying they are supplying information to the US government?
- 7) Who else do these tech companies supply OUR information of what we tap into to?
- 8) Name two books about spies.
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

**GAP FILL: READING**

**PRISM could be watching you!**

Recently Britain's *Guardian* newspaper made headline news when it published details about the US government's (1)\_\_\_ monitoring program called *PRISM*. What is that? It's a (2)\_\_\_ the US government uses to spy on its population. It also helps them keep (3)\_\_\_ of their citizens who live broad.

According to *The Huffington Post* the US government uses the program to also (4)\_\_\_ on other countries. British Foreign Secretary William Hague has said GCHQ has not been using the system, yet the (5)\_\_\_ agency refuses to confirm or deny links to it. *The Daily Telegraph* newspaper in the UK reports the *National Security Agency* has launched a criminal (6)\_\_\_ into the (7)\_\_\_ of the highly (8)\_\_\_ information about the secret surveillance programs.

**spy / controversial / classified / probe / eavesdropping / mechanism / leak / track**

President Obama has said "no one is listening to your calls". Yet according to *CNN* his government records the details of millions of Americans video chats, phone calls, texts and emails from overseas. It says there is more to the government's (1)\_\_\_ programs that what's been acknowledged. One (2)\_\_\_ said the *PRISM* program has been operating for seven years!

*The Washington Post* and *Guardian* said the *PRISM* (3)\_\_\_ allows the US government to (4)\_\_\_ emails, photos, search histories and other data from some of America's biggest companies including; Facebook, Google, Yahoo, AOL, Microsoft and Apple. Facebook (5)\_\_\_ Mark Zuckerberg called the reports "(6)\_\_\_". He said Facebook "is not and never has been a part of any program to give the US or any other government direct access to our servers". Other tech companies named in the report have also denied having knowledge of *PRISM* or giving the American government direct (7)\_\_\_ to their (8)\_\_\_.

**servers / boss / access/ monitor / outrageous / surveillance / senator / program**

**GAP FILL: GRAMMAR**

**PRISM could be watching you!**

Recently Britain's *Guardian* newspaper made headline news (1)\_\_\_ it published details about the US government's controversial monitoring program called *PRISM*. (2)\_\_\_ is (3)\_\_\_? It's a mechanism the US government uses to spy on its population. It also helps them keep track of their citizens who live abroad.

According to *The Huffington Post* the US government uses the program to (4)\_\_\_ spy on (5)\_\_\_ countries. British Foreign Secretary William Hague has said GCHQ has not been using the system, (6)\_\_\_ the eavesdropping agency refuses to confirm or deny links to it. *The Daily Telegraph* newspaper in the UK reports the *National Security Agency* has launched a criminal probe (7)\_\_\_ the leak of the highly classified information (8)\_\_\_ the secret surveillance programs.

**about / other / what / when / also / into / that / yet**

President Obama has said "no one is listening to your calls". (1)\_\_\_ according to *CNN* his government records the details of millions of Americans video chats, phone calls, texts and emails from overseas. (2)\_\_\_ says there is more to the government's surveillance programs that what's been acknowledged. One senator said the *PRISM* program has been operating (3)\_\_\_ seven years!

*The Washington Post* and *Guardian* said the *PRISM* program allows the US government to monitor emails, photos, search histories (4)\_\_\_ other data from some of America's biggest companies including; Facebook, Google, Yahoo, AOL, Microsoft and Apple. Facebook boss Mark Zuckerberg called the reports "outrageous". (5)\_\_\_ said Facebook "is not and never has been a part of any program to give the US or (6)\_\_\_ other government direct access to (7)\_\_\_ servers". Other tech companies named in the report have also denied having knowledge of *PRISM* or giving (8)\_\_\_ American government direct access to their servers.

**our / any / and / the / for / yet / he / it**

## GAP FILL: LISTENING

### PRISM could be watching you!

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According to \_\_\_\_\_ the US government uses the program to also spy on other countries. British Foreign Secretary William Hague has said GCHQ has not been using the system, yet the \_\_\_\_\_ refuses to confirm or deny links to it. *The Daily Telegraph* newspaper in the UK reports the *National Security Agency* has launched a criminal probe into the leak of the highly classified information about the \_\_\_\_\_ programs.

President Obama has said " \_\_\_\_\_ to your calls". Yet according to *CNN* his government records the details of millions of Americans video chats, phone calls, texts and emails from overseas. It says \_\_\_\_\_ government's surveillance programs that what's been acknowledged. One senator said the *PRISM* program has been operating for seven years! *The Washington Post* and *Guardian* said the *PRISM* program allows the US government to monitor emails, photos, \_\_\_\_\_ other data from some of America's biggest companies including; Facebook, Google, Yahoo, AOL, Microsoft and Apple. Facebook boss Mark Zuckerberg called the reports "outrageous". He said Facebook "is not and never has been a part of any program to give the US or any other government direct access to our servers". \_\_\_\_\_ named in the report have also denied having knowledge of *PRISM* or giving the \_\_\_\_\_ direct access to their servers.

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## WRITING/SPELLING

### WRITING / SPEAKING

**1) Speaking - In pairs** – Think of five things you know about Britain's most famous spy - *James Bond* – 007. What would he think of *PRISM*? What would 'Q' or 'M' think of *PRISM*? Discuss together.

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

- 1) *PRISM* \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) If I was a spy \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) My favourite spy is \_\_\_\_\_

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

### GAP FILL READING

- 1) controversial
- 2) mechanism
- 3) track
- 4) spy
- 5) eavesdropping
- 6) probe
- 7) leak
- 8) classified

### ANSWERS

- 1) surveillance
- 2) senator
- 3) allows
- 4) monitor
- 5) boss
- 6) outrageous
- 7) access
- 8) servers

### SPELLING

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

- 1) controversial
- 2) mechanism
- 3) monitoring
- 4) citizens
- 5) eavesdropping
- 6) deny
- 7) probe
- 8) surveillance
- 9) millions
- 10) yet

### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**

**Good = 15**

**Very good = 18**

**Excellent = 20**

- 11) acknowledge
- 12) senator
- 13) monitor
- 14) outrageous
- 15) access
- 16) servers
- 17) knowledge
- 18) classified
- 19) spy
- 20) criminal

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