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## **Level 2**

# **Syria says it will destroy chemical weapons**

**21st September, 2013**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130921-chemical-weapons-2.html>

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**Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130921-chemical-weapons-2.html>

Syria's president, Bashar al-Assad, said he will destroy his country's chemical weapons. He told reporters that it might take one year to do this. Mr Assad said it was a difficult operation and needed lots of money, maybe about \$1billion. He said it was bad for the environment, but America could pay and take the responsibility of taking the poisonous chemicals to the U.S. America wants Syria to agree to a United Nations plan that includes American military action if Syria does not keep its promise. However, Russia said no to this idea.

President Assad told the world that rebels attacked Damascus with chemical weapons last month. America says Syria's army used the sarin gas, not the rebels. Mr Assad said America was wrong. Russia says America cannot prove this. Russia's foreign minister said he has information to show the rebels were part of the sarin attack. Mr Assad said the rebels could have used the gas. He said: "Sarin gas is called kitchen gas because anybody can make sarin in his house. Any rebel can make sarin." He said Syria was in "a new kind of war" because fighters from over 80 countries have joined the rebels.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-24155674>  
<http://news.sky.com/story/1143623/assad-to-destroy-chemical-weapons-in-a-year>  
<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/09/19/Syria-s-chemical-weapons-disposal-will-cost-1-bln-Assad-says-.html>

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130921-chemical-weapons-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. he will destroy his country's  | a. to this idea        |
| 2. it might take                  | b. lots of money       |
| 3. it was a difficult             | c. for the environment |
| 4. needed                         | d. to the U.S.         |
| 5. it was bad                     | e. chemical weapons    |
| 6. taking the poisonous chemicals | f. its promise         |
| 7. if Syria does not keep         | g. one year            |
| 8. Russia said no                 | h. operation           |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. rebels attacked                          | a. used the sarin gas     |
| 2. America says Syria's army                | b. kind of war            |
| 3. Mr Assad said America was                | c. prove this             |
| 4. Russia says America cannot               | d. sarin in his house     |
| 5. information to show the rebels were part | e. Damascus               |
| 6. anybody can make                         | f. have joined the rebels |
| 7. Syria was in a new                       | g. wrong                  |
| 8. fighters from over 80 countries          | h. of the sarin attack    |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130921-chemical-weapons-2.html>

Syria's president, Bashar al-Assad, (1) \_\_\_\_\_ his country's chemical weapons. He told reporters that it might take one (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Mr Assad said it was a difficult operation and (3) \_\_\_\_\_ money, maybe about \$1billion. He said (4) \_\_\_\_\_ environment, but America could pay and take the responsibility of taking the poisonous chemicals to the U.S. America wants Syria to agree to a United Nations (5) \_\_\_\_\_ American military action if Syria does not (6) \_\_\_\_\_. However, Russia said no to this idea.

President Assad told the world (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Damascus with chemical weapons last month. America (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the sarin gas, not the rebels. Mr Assad said America was wrong. Russia says America (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Russia's foreign minister said he has information to show the rebels (10) \_\_\_\_\_ sarin attack. Mr Assad said the rebels could have used the gas. He said: "Sarin gas is called kitchen gas (11) \_\_\_\_\_ make sarin in his house. Any rebel can make sarin." He said Syria was in "(12) \_\_\_\_\_" because fighters from over 80 countries have joined the rebels.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130921-chemical-weapons-2.html>

Syria's president, Bashar al-Assad, said he will destroy his country's chemical weapons. He told reporters that it might take one year to do this. Mr Assad said it was a difficult operation and needed lots of money, maybe about \$1 billion. He said it was bad for the environment, but America could pay and take the responsibility of taking the poisonous chemicals to the U.S. America wants Syria to agree to a United Nations plan that includes American military action if Syria does not keep its promise. However, Russia said not to this idea. President Assad told the world that rebels attacked Damascus with chemical weapons last month. America says Syria's army used the sarin gas, not the rebels. Mr Assad said America was wrong. Russia says America cannot prove this. Russia's foreign ministers said he has information to show the rebels were part of the sarin attack. Mr Assad said the rebels could have used the gas. He said: "Sarin gas is called kitchen gas because anybody can make sarin in his house. Any rebel can make sarin." He said Syria was in "a new kind of war" because fighters from over 80 countries have joined the rebels.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

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b)

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c)

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d)

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e)

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f)

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g)

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h)

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

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b)

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c)

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d)

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e)

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f)

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g)

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h)

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# WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130921-chemical-weapons-2.html>

Write about **chemical weapons** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

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