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Level 4

Republicans and Obama in debt crisis talks

13th October, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131013-us-shutdown-4.html>

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Please try the harder Level 5 and the 26–page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131013-us-shutdown-4.html>

President Barack Obama and a Republican leader have finally sat down for talks about the partial U.S. government shutdown and the possible debt crisis. They didn't come up with any answers, but people are positive that talks are happening. A senior Republican said the talks were "very useful" and "clarifying". Hopefully, the two sides will agree to increase the \$16.7 trillion U.S. debt limit. Failure to do this by October 17 could be very bad for the global economy.

A poll found 53 per cent of people blamed Republicans for the shutdown, while 31 per cent blamed Obama. Other countries can't understand what is going on. An Indian newspaper said it was "chilling" that US politicians were playing a dangerous game with the economy. A UAE businessman said there was something badly wrong with a system that leaves a country without direction, without a budget and perhaps unable to pay its debts.

Sources: <http://www.voanews.com/content/obama-encouraged-by-offer-of-debt-limit-deal/1767272.html>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-24483014>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-24467534>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131013-us-shutdown-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. finally sat down | a. will agree |
| 2. the partial | b. up with any answers |
| 3. They didn't come | c. the global economy |
| 4. positive that | d. U.S. government shutdown |
| 5. the two sides | e. talks are happening |
| 6. be very bad for | f. for talks |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. 53 per cent of | a. game with the economy |
| 2. Other countries can't understand | b. people blamed Republicans |
| 3. politicians were playing a dangerous | c. without direction |
| 4. there was something badly | d. what is going on |
| 5. a system that leaves a country | e. its debts |
| 6. unable to pay | f. wrong |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131013-us-shutdown-4.html>

President Barack Obama and a Republican (1) _____ sat down for (2) _____ U.S. government shutdown and the possible debt crisis. They didn't (3) _____ answers, but people are (4) _____ are happening. A senior Republican said the talks were "very useful" and "clarifying". Hopefully, the two sides will (5) _____ the \$16.7 trillion U.S. debt limit. Failure to do this by October 17 could be very bad (6) _____.

A poll found 53 per (7) _____ Republicans for the shutdown, while 31 per cent blamed Obama. (8) _____ understand what is going on. An Indian newspaper (9) _____ that US politicians were playing a dangerous game (10) _____. A UAE businessman said there (11) _____ wrong with a system that leaves a country (12) _____, without a budget and perhaps unable to pay its debts.

U.S. POLITICS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1310/131013-us-shutdown-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about U.S. politics in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

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) _____

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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) _____

