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German help for Greece waning

28th May, 2012

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1205/120528-greece.html>

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1205/120528-greece.html>

A German politician has warned Greece his country will not continue to pour money into Greece to keep it afloat. Germany has been the main contributor in providing funds to keep Greece's economy from collapsing. It has twice contributed to huge, multi-billion-dollar bailouts to help the Greek economy. Fears are widespread that Greece will go bankrupt, which could have severe consequences for the rest of the Eurozone and cause turmoil on world financial markets. Germany's Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich told reporters that he was happy for Germany to help Greece as long as it keeps its promises regarding austerity measures. He said: "We're not willing to pour money into a bottomless pit."

IMF chief Christine Lagarde was unsympathetic to Greece's situation when compared to suffering in the rest of the world. She angered many Greeks when she suggested they were a nation of tax evaders. She told reporters: "As far as Athens is concerned, I also think about all those people who are trying to escape tax all the time....I think they should also help themselves collectively." She added: "I think more of the little kids from a school in a little village in Niger who get two hours of teaching a day....I have them in my mind all the time because I think they need even more help than the people in Athens." Greece's socialist leader Evangelos Venizelos accused Ms Lagarde of "insulting the Greek people".

WARM-UPS

1. BAILOUTS: Walk around the class and talk to other students about bailouts. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

politician / pour money into something / collapsing / severe consequences / promises / unsympathetic / suffering / tax evaders / collectively / village / help / insulting

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. WHO NEEDS THE MONEY?: Where should the IMF's billions go? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

Who?	Why?
Greece	
Poor children	
Cancer research	
Disaster victims	
The Arts	
Clean water projects	

4. BAILOUT: Students A **strongly** believe Europe should keep bailing Greece out; Students B **strongly** believe they shouldn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. AUSTERITY: What could you do without? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the things you need most at the top. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- mobile phone
- snacks and sweets
- restaurants
- books
- games
- music
- clothes
- movies

6. MONEY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'money'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1205/120528-greece.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE:

Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. A German politician said Germany will no longer give Greece money. T / F
- b. Germany has given more money to help Greece than any other nation. T / F
- c. A Greek bankruptcy would have no effect on countries outside Europe. T / F
- d. The German politician suggested Greece is not keeping its promises. T / F
- e. The IMF's chief said she had no sympathy for Greece. T / F
- f. The IMF chief suggested Greeks should stop avoiding paying taxes. T / F
- g. The chief said she cared more about the education of poor African kids. T / F
- h. A Greek socialist politician agreed with the IMF chief's words. T / F

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. afloat | a. avoid |
| 2. contributor | b. universal |
| 3. widespread | c. actions |
| 4. severe | d. uncaring |
| 5. measures | e. above water |
| 6. unsympathetic | f. offending |
| 7. suffering | g. as one |
| 8. escape | h. terrible |
| 9. collectively | i. donor |
| 10. insulting | j. hardship |

3. PHRASE MATCH:

(Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. keep it | a. consequences |
| 2. Germany has been the main | b. collectively |
| 3. ... which could have severe | c. bottomless pit |
| 4. austerity | d. to Greece's situation |
| 5. pour money into a | e. the Greek people |
| 6. Christine Lagarde was unsympathetic | f. afloat |
| 7. a nation of tax | g. mind all the time |
| 8. they should also help themselves | h. measures |
| 9. I have them in my | i. contributor |
| 10. insulting | j. evaders |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1205/120528-greece.html>

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

A German politician has _____ Greece his country will not continue to pour money into Greece to keep it _____. Germany has been the main contributor in providing funds to keep Greece's economy from collapsing. It has twice contributed to _____, multi-billion-dollar bailouts to help the Greek economy. _____ are widespread that Greece will go bankrupt, which could have severe consequences for the rest of the Eurozone and _____ turmoil on world financial markets. Germany's Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich told reporters that he was happy for Germany to help Greece as long as it keeps its _____ regarding austerity measures. He said: "We're not _____ to pour money into a bottomless _____."

promises

fears

afloat

willing

warned

pit

huge

cause

IMF chief Christine Lagarde was unsympathetic to Greece's situation when compared to _____ in the rest of the world. She angered many Greeks when she _____ they were a nation of tax _____. She told reporters: "As far as Athens is concerned, I also think about all those people who are trying to _____ tax all the time....I think they should also help themselves _____." She added: "I think more of the little kids from a school in a little village in Niger who get two hours of teaching a day....I have them in my _____ all the time because I think they need even more help than the people in Athens." Greece's socialist leader Evangelos Venizelos _____ Ms Lagarde of "_____ the Greek people".

evaders

accused

suggested

collectively

insulting

suffering

escape

mind

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1205/120528-greece.html>

A German politician has warned Greece his country will not _____ money into Greece to keep it afloat. Germany has been the main contributor in _____ Greece's economy from collapsing. It has twice contributed to huge, multi-billion-_____ the Greek economy. Fears are widespread that Greece will go bankrupt, which could have _____ for the rest of the Eurozone _____ world financial markets. Germany's Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich told reporters that he was happy for Germany to help Greece as long as it keeps its promises regarding _____. He said: "We're not willing to pour money into a bottomless pit."

IMF chief Christine Lagarde was unsympathetic to Greece's situation when _____ in the rest of the world. She angered many Greeks when she suggested they were a _____. She told reporters: "As far as Athens is concerned, I also think about all those people who are _____ tax all the time....I think they should also help _____." She added: "I think more of the little kids from a school in a little village in Niger who get two hours of teaching a day....I have _____ all the time because I think they need even more help than the people in Athens." Greece's socialist leader Evangelos Venizelos accused Ms Lagarde of "_____ people".

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1205/120528-greece.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'pour' and 'money'.

pour	money
-------------	--------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• continue• twice• fears• severe• happy• pit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• chief• nation• escape• little• mind• help
---	--

BAILOUTS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1205/120528-greece.html>

Write five GOOD questions about bailouts 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.

BAILOUTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'bailout'?
- c) How interested are you in news of Greece's economic woes?
- d) How did Greece get into such a mess?
- e) What are the economics of the whole situation?
- f) Do you agree with the German politician?
- g) What happens if Greece goes bankrupt?
- h) Should it be up to Germany to lend so much money to Greece?
- i) Why is Greece finding it so hard to implement its austerity measures?
- j) Is the Euro a good idea?

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BAILOUTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Do you think the Eurozone has been a success?
- c) What do you think of Christine Lagarde's relative lack of sympathy?
- d) Do you think the billions should go to educate poor children instead of bailing Greece out?
- e) How much of a problem is tax evasion in your country?
- f) How is the state of your country's economy?
- g) Should countries be left to go bankrupt and then rebuild themselves?
- h) Whose fault is it that the Greek economy is in such a mess?
- i) Do you think Christine LaGarde's comments insulted the Greeks?
- j) What questions would you like to ask IMF chief Christine Lagarde?

LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1205/120528-greece.html>

A German politician has warned Greece his country will not continue to pour money (1) _____ Greece to keep it afloat. Germany has been the (2) _____ contributor in providing funds to keep Greece's economy from collapsing. It has twice contributed to huge, multi-billion-dollar bailouts to help the Greek economy. (3) _____ are widespread that Greece will go bankrupt, which could have (4) _____ consequences for the rest of the Eurozone and (5) _____ turmoil on world financial markets. Germany's Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich told reporters that he was happy for Germany to help Greece as long as it keeps its promises regarding austerity measures. He said: "We're not (6) _____ to pour money into a bottomless pit."

IMF chief Christine Lagarde was (7) _____ to Greece's situation when compared to suffering in the rest of the world. She (8) _____ many Greeks when she suggested they were a nation of tax evaders. She told reporters: "As far as Athens is (9) _____, I also think about all those people who are trying to escape tax all the time....I think they should also help (10) _____ collectively." She added: "I think more of the little kids from a school in a little village in Niger who get two hours of teaching a day....I have them in my (11) _____ all the time because I think they need even more help than the people in Athens." Greece's socialist leader Evangelos Venizelos accused Ms Lagarde of "(12) _____ the Greek people".

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) over | (b) on | (c) down | (d) into |
| 2. | (a) importance | (b) minor | (c) main | (d) supreme |
| 3. | (a) Afraid | (b) Fears | (c) Phobias | (d) Dread |
| 4. | (a) severe | (b) numeracy | (c) lenient | (d) cut |
| 5. | (a) have | (b) take | (c) cause | (d) provide |
| 6. | (a) wilting | (b) withering | (c) wallowing | (d) willing |
| 7. | (a) sympathy | (b) unsympathetic | (c) symphony | (d) symptomatic |
| 8. | (a) angered | (b) angry | (c) angers | (d) anger |
| 9. | (a) concentrated | (b) concerned | (c) concertinaed | (d) contained |
| 10. | (a) nationals | (b) these | (c) themselves | (d) selfishness |
| 11. | (a) mind | (b) intellect | (c) wits | (d) reason |
| 12. | (a) insults | (b) insult | (c) insulted | (d) insulting |

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about bailouts. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. BAILOUTS: Make a poster about the bailouts to Greece. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. GREECE: Write a magazine article about Greece's economic woes. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against more bailouts.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. LETTER: Write a letter to IMF chief Christine Lagarde. Ask her three questions about the bailouts to Greece. Give her three of your opinions on them. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F b. T c. F d. T e. F f. T g. T h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. afloat | a. above water |
| 2. contributor | b. donor |
| 3. widespread | c. universal |
| 4. severe | d. terrible |
| 5. measures | e. actions |
| 6. unsympathetic | f. uncaring |
| 7. suffering | g. hardship |
| 8. escape | h. avoid |
| 9. collectively | i. as one |
| 10. insulting | j. offending |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. keep it | a. afloat |
| 2. Germany has been the main | b. contributor |
| 3. ... which could have severe | c. consequences |
| 4. austerity | d. measures |
| 5. pour money into a | e. bottomless pit |
| 6. Christine Lagarde was unsympathetic | f. to Greece's situation |
| 7. a nation of tax | g. evaders |
| 8. they should also help themselves | h. collectively |
| 9. I have them in my | i. mind all the time |
| 10. insulting | j. the Greek people |

GAP FILL:

German help for Greece waning

A German politician has **warned** Greece his country will not continue to pour money into Greece to keep it **afloat**. Germany has been the main contributor in providing funds to keep Greece's economy from collapsing. It has twice contributed to **huge**, multi-billion-dollar bailouts to help the Greek economy. **Fears** are widespread that Greece will go bankrupt, which could have severe consequences for the rest of the Eurozone and **cause** turmoil on world financial markets. Germany's Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich told reporters that he was happy for Germany to help Greece as long as it keeps its **promises** regarding austerity measures. He said: "We're not **willing** to pour money into a bottomless **pit**."

IMF chief Christine Lagarde was unsympathetic to Greece's situation when compared to **suffering** in the rest of the world. She angered many Greeks when she **suggested** they were a nation of tax **evaders**. She told reporters: "As far as Athens is concerned, I also think about all those people who are trying to **escape** tax all the time....I think they should also help themselves **collectively**." She added: "I think more of the little kids from a school in a little village in Niger who get two hours of teaching a day....I have them in my **mind** all the time because I think they need even more help than the people in Athens." Greece's socialist leader Evangelos Venizelos **accused** Ms Lagarde of "**insulting** the Greek people".

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d 2 - c 3 - b 4 - a 5 - c 6 - d 7 - b 8 - a 9 - b 10 - c 11 - a 12 - d