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## Level 6

# Putin world's most powerful person

**2nd November, 2013**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1311/131102-most-powerful-people.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1311/131102-most-powerful-people.html>

The American business magazine "Forbes" has announced that Russian President Vladimir Putin is the most powerful person in the world. He knocks US President Barack Obama from the top spot. "Forbes" is well known for compiling annual lists comparing the rich and famous. In its latest ranking, it asked: "Who's more powerful: the autocratic leader of a former superpower or the handcuffed commander-in-chief of the most dominant country in the world?" The magazine cites a number of reasons why Obama lost his top ranking and has become a "lame duck" president. These included the recent "government shutdown mess," his foreign policy on Syria and the ongoing spying and security leaks scandals.

Forbes wrote: "There are nearly 7.2 billion people on the planet. These are the 72 that matter the most." It added that its list is: "An annual snapshot of the heads of state, financiers, philanthropists and entrepreneurs who truly run the world." It is put together by Forbes' editors, who have four "dimensions" to take into consideration. One is whether the candidate has power over lots of people; second is the financial resources at the disposal or control of each person; third is to what degree the person has power "in multiple spheres"; and finally, the extent to which he or she "actively uses their power". These factors put the U.N. Secretary-General 22 places behind the CEO of retail giant Wal-Mart.

Sources: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/carolinehoward/2013/10/30/the-worlds-most-powerful-people-2013/>  
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/carolinehoward/2013/10/30/ranking-the-worlds-most-powerful-people-2013/>

# WARM-UPS

**1. POWERFUL PEOPLE:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about powerful people. Change partners often 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.

*business magazine / the top spot / annual lists / latest ranking / superpower / scandal / the planet / philanthropists / run the world / financial resources / power / retail giant*

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

**3. MOST POWERFUL:** How powerful are these people? Score them: "1" = not powerful; "10" is very powerful. Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	1 - 10	Can bring change	Affect your life
USA President			
Facebook CEO			
UN Secretary-General			
CNN owner			
Head of World Bank			
Top Hollywood actor			

**4. PUTIN:** Students A **strongly** believe Vladimir Putin is the world's most powerful person; Students B **strongly** believe he isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. POWER:** Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most powerful at the top at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- a computer hacker
- the boss of Apple
- an army general
- the head of Al Qaeda
- world footballer of the year
- head of the BBC
- the Pope
- N. Korea's leader

**6. LIST:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "list". 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/1311/131102-most-powerful-people.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. A Russian magazine said Putin is the world's most powerful person. T / F
- b. Barack Obama was number one before Vladimir Putin. T / F
- c. A magazine suggests Obama has limited use of his power. T / F
- d. The magazine likens Obama to a spring chicken. T / F
- e. The magazine took a photograph of 72 powerful people. T / F
- f. People who chose the most powerful person looked at four areas. T / F
- g. One factor to be most powerful was influence in different areas. T / F
- h. The U.N. Secretary-General was 22 places higher than Wal-Mart's CEO. T / F

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |              |                      |
|--------------|----------------------|
| 1. announced | a. putting together  |
| 2. spot      | b. make a difference |
| 3. compiling | c. areas             |
| 4. former    | d. yearly            |
| 5. ongoing   | e. declared          |
| 6. matter    | f. control           |
| 7. annual    | g. continuing        |
| 8. run       | h. position          |
| 9. spheres   | i. colossus          |
| 10. giant    | j. ex-               |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. compiling             | a. duck president         |
| 2. autocratic            | b. control of each person |
| 3. a lame                | c. policy on Syria        |
| 4. the recent government | d. entrepreneurs          |
| 5. his foreign           | e. that matter the most   |
| 6. These are the 72      | f. leader                 |
| 7. philanthropists and   | g. giant                  |
| 8. take into             | h. shutdown mess          |
| 9. at the disposal or    | i. annual lists           |
| 10. retail               | j. consideration          |

# GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1311/131102-most-powerful-people.html>

The American business magazine "Forbes" has (1) \_\_\_\_ that Russian President Vladimir Putin is the most powerful person in the world. He (2) \_\_\_\_ US President Barack Obama from the top spot. "Forbes" is well known for (3) \_\_\_\_ annual lists comparing the rich and famous. In its latest ranking, it asked: "Who's more powerful: the (4) \_\_\_\_ leader of a former superpower or the handcuffed commander-in-chief of the most dominant country in the world?" The magazine (5) \_\_\_\_ a number of reasons why Obama lost his top ranking and has become a "lame (6) \_\_\_\_" president. These included the recent "government shutdown (7) \_\_\_\_\_," his foreign policy on Syria and the (8) \_\_\_\_ spying and security leaks scandals.

*mess*  
*autocratic*  
*knocks*  
*duck*  
*announced*  
*ongoing*  
*compiling*  
*cites*

Forbes wrote: "There are nearly 7.2 billion people on the planet. These are the 72 that (9) \_\_\_\_ the most." It added that its list is: "An annual (10) \_\_\_\_ of the heads of state, financiers, philanthropists and entrepreneurs who (11) \_\_\_\_ run the world." It is put together by Forbes' editors, who have four "dimensions" to (12) \_\_\_\_ into consideration. One is whether the candidate has power over lots of people; second is the financial resources at the (13) \_\_\_\_ or control of each person; third is to what degree the person has power "in (14) \_\_\_\_ spheres"; and finally, the extent to which he or she "actively uses their power". These (15) \_\_\_\_ put the U.N. Secretary-General 22 places behind the CEO of (16) \_\_\_\_ giant Wal-Mart.

*truly*  
*multiple*  
*retail*  
*matter*  
*disposal*  
*snapshot*  
*factors*  
*take*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1311/131102-most-powerful-people.html>

- 1) He knocks US President Barack Obama from \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the top sport
  - b. the tops pot
  - c. the top spot
  - d. the tops spot
- 2) The magazine cites a number of reasons why Obama lost \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. his top rank in
  - b. his stop ranking
  - c. his stop rank in
  - d. his top ranking
- 3) has become a " \_\_\_\_\_ " president
  - a. lame duck
  - b. lane duck
  - c. rain duck
  - d. lame duct
- 4) These included the recent government \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. shutdown messy
  - b. shutdown mess
  - c. shutdown messed
  - d. shutdown messes
- 5) his foreign policy on Syria and the ongoing spying and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. security leak scandals
  - b. security leaks sandals
  - c. security leak sandals
  - d. security leaks scandals
- 6) An \_\_\_\_\_ the heads of state, financiers, philanthropists and entrepreneurs
  - a. annual snapped shot of
  - b. annual snap short of
  - c. annual snap shod of
  - d. annual snapshot of
- 7) It is put together by Forbes' editors, who have four "dimensions" to take \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. into consideration
  - b. unto consideration
  - c. onto consideration
  - d. in too consideration
- 8) second is the financial resources at the \_\_\_\_\_ of each person
  - a. this pose all or control
  - b. disposal or control
  - c. disposal or controls
  - d. dispose all or control
- 9) third is to what degree the person has power " \_\_\_\_\_ "
  - a. in multi-pull spears
  - b. in multiply spheres
  - c. in multiple spheres
  - d. in multiple spears
- 10) These factors put the U.N. Secretary-General 22 places behind the CEO \_\_\_\_\_ Wal-Mart
  - a. of retailing giant
  - b. of the tail giant
  - c. of retain giant
  - d. of retail giant

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1311/131102-most-powerful-people.html>

The American business magazine "Forbes" (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Russian President Vladimir Putin is the most powerful person in the world. He knocks US President Barack Obama (2) \_\_\_\_\_. "Forbes" is well known for (3) \_\_\_\_\_ comparing the rich and famous. In its latest ranking, it asked: "Who's more powerful: the autocratic leader of a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the handcuffed commander-in-chief of the most dominant country in the world?" The magazine (5) \_\_\_\_\_ reasons why Obama lost his top ranking and has become a "lame duck" president. These included the recent "(6) \_\_\_\_\_," his foreign policy on Syria and the ongoing spying and security leaks scandals.

Forbes wrote: "There are nearly 7.2 billion people on the planet. These are the 72 (7) \_\_\_\_\_." It added that its list is: "An annual snapshot of the heads of state, (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and entrepreneurs who (9) \_\_\_\_\_." It is put together by Forbes' editors, who have four "dimensions" to (10) \_\_\_\_\_. One is whether the candidate has power over lots of people; second is the financial resources at the disposal or control of each person; third is to what degree the person has power (11) \_\_\_\_\_; and finally, the extent to which he or she "actively uses their power". These factors put the U.N. Secretary-General (12) \_\_\_\_\_ CEO of retail giant Wal-Mart.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1311/131102-most-powerful-people.html>

1. What kind of magazine is "Forbes"?

---

2. Who was number one on the list last year?

---

3. How did the article describe the commander-in-chief as being?

---

4. What kind of President did the article say Obama now was?

---

5. What foreign policy was mentioned?

---

6. How many people matter the most?

---

7. How often is this "snapshot" of the powerful taken?

---

8. How many factors did the editors take into consideration?

---

9. What was the fourth consideration?

---

10. Who was 22 positions behind the CEO of a chain store?

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# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1311/131102-most-powerful-people.html>

1. What kind of magazine is "Forbes"?
  - a) a political magazine
  - b) a magazine full of lists
  - c) a celebrity gossip magazine
  - d) a business magazine
2. Who was number one on the list last year?
  - a) Vladimir Putin
  - b) Barack Obama
  - c) Mark Zuckerberg
  - d) Angela Merkel
3. How did the article describe the commander-in-chief as being?
  - a) duck-like
  - b) awesome
  - c) handcuffed
  - d) rudderless
4. What kind of President did the article say Obama now was?
  - a) a lame duck
  - b) a spring chicken
  - c) a cooked goose
  - d) a Christmas turkey
5. What foreign policy was mentioned?
  - a) never fight wars overseas
  - b) the international one
  - c) that on Syria
  - d) the first rule of diplomacy
6. How many people matter the most?
  - a) 7.2 billion
  - b) 72
  - c) thousands
  - d) countless numbers
7. How often is this "snapshot" of the powerful taken?
  - a) every 4 years
  - b) once in a blue moon
  - c) when they gather in Davos
  - d) yearly
8. How many factors did the editors take into consideration?
  - a) 4
  - b) 6
  - c) 8
  - d) 10
9. What was the fourth consideration?
  - a) to be or not to be
  - b) wealth
  - c) active use of power
  - d) how many degrees they have
10. Who was 22 positions behind the CEO of a chain store?
  - a) Barack Obama
  - b) the U.N. Secretary-General
  - c) Mark Zuckerberg
  - d) Bill Gates

# ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1311/131102-most-powerful-people.html>

## **Role A – Vladimir Putin**

You think Vladimir Putin is the most powerful person in the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their people. Also, tell the others who is the least powerful of these (and why): Barack Obama, Facebook's CEO or the U.N. Secretary-General.

## **Role B – Barack Obama**

You think Barack Obama is the most powerful person in the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their people. Also, tell the others who is the least powerful of these (and why): Vladimir Putin, Facebook's CEO or the U.N. Secretary-General.

## **Role C – Facebook's CEO**

You think Facebook's CEO is the most powerful person in the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their people. Also, tell the others who is the least powerful of these (and why): Barack Obama, Vladimir Putin or the U.N. Secretary-General.

## **Role D – The U.N. Secretary-General**

You think the U.N. Secretary-General is the most powerful person in the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their people. Also, tell the others who is the least powerful (and why): Barack Obama, Facebook's CEO or Vladimir Putin.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1311/131102-most-powerful-people.html>

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

<b>business</b>	<b>magazine</b>
-----------------	-----------------

- 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"><li>• announced</li><li>• spot</li><li>• latest</li><li>• number</li><li>• duck</li><li>• security</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 72</li><li>• state</li><li>• four</li><li>• second</li><li>• finally</li><li>• 22</li></ul>
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# POWERFUL PEOPLE SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1311/131102-most-powerful-people.html>

Write five GOOD questions about powerful people 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.

## **POWERFUL PEOPLE 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 'powerful'?
- c) What do you think of the Forbes list?
- d) What power does Vladimir Putin have in Russia and in the world?
- e) Do you think Vladimir Putin is more powerful than Barack Obama?
- f) Why did Forbes call Putin an "autocratic leader"?
- g) Why did Forbes say Obama is "handcuffed"?
- h) Is Obama a weak president?
- i) Who is the most powerful person who isn't a national leader?
- j) Are lists like this important?

*Putin world's most powerful person – 2nd November, 2013*  
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## **POWERFUL PEOPLE DISCUSSION**

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Do the 72 people on the list really "matter the most"?
- c) Who is more important, a financier or a philanthropist?
- d) What do you think of the four dimensions used to decide the "winner"?
- e) What responsibilities does the most powerful person in the world have?
- f) Does power corrupt?
- g) Does having power change people?
- h) What power do you have?
- i) What kind of power would you like to have?
- j) What would you like to ask Vladimir Putin about the Forbes list?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1311/131102-most-powerful-people.html>

The American business magazine "Forbes" has announced that Russian President Vladimir Putin is the most powerful person in the world. He (1) \_\_\_\_ US President Barack Obama from the top spot. "Forbes" is well known for (2) \_\_\_\_ annual lists comparing the rich and famous. In its latest (3) \_\_\_\_, it asked: "Who's more powerful: the autocratic leader of a former superpower or the (4) \_\_\_\_ commander-in-chief of the most dominant country in the world?" The magazine (5) \_\_\_\_ a number of reasons why Obama lost his top ranking and has become a "lame duck" president. These included the recent "government shutdown mess," his foreign policy (6) \_\_\_\_ Syria and the ongoing spying and security leaks scandals.

Forbes wrote: "There are nearly 7.2 billion people on the (7) \_\_\_\_\_. These are the 72 that matter the most." It added that its list is: "An (8) \_\_\_\_\_ snapshot of the heads of state, financiers, philanthropists and entrepreneurs who (9) \_\_\_\_\_ run the world." It is put together by Forbes' editors, who have four "dimensions" to take into consideration. One is whether the candidate has power (10) \_\_\_\_\_ lots of people; second is the financial resources at the disposal or control of each person; third is to what (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the person has power "in multiple spheres"; and finally, the extent (12) \_\_\_\_\_ which he or she "actively uses their power". These factors put the U.N. Secretary-General 22 places behind the CEO of retail giant Wal-Mart.

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

- |     |                |                 |               |                 |
|-----|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | (a) knockings  | (b) knocks      | (c) knockers  | (d) knocking    |
| 2.  | (a) replying   | (b) compiling   | (c) refilling | (d) complaining |
| 3.  | (a) thanking   | (b) hankering   | (c) banking   | (d) ranking     |
| 4.  | (a) cuff links | (b) handcuffed  | (c) handless  | (d) handy       |
| 5.  | (a) sights     | (b) cites       | (c) sites     | (d) sates       |
| 6.  | (a) at         | (b) by          | (c) on        | (d) from        |
| 7.  | (a) planets    | (b) planetary   | (c) planet    | (d) planetarium |
| 8.  | (a) annually   | (b) annualised  | (c) annual    | (d) annuals     |
| 9.  | (a) reality    | (b) facts       | (c) honest    | (d) truly       |
| 10. | (a) from       | (b) under       | (c) for       | (d) over        |
| 11. | (a) degree     | (b) temperature | (c) angle     | (d) ratio       |
| 12. | (a) at         | (b) as          | (c) to        | (d) of          |

# SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1311/131102-most-powerful-people.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. giilpomcn annual lists
2. the ctacroatiu leader
3. the fhddefunac commander-in-chief
4. The magazine tecis a number of reasons
5. foreign yiclpo
6. usytecri leaks

## Paragraph 2

7. financiers, philanthropists and tnpenesreerur
8. four "dimensions" to take into nooesdicatirn
9. the dtaiaencd has power
10. at the lsspdioa or control of each person
11. in multiple erepshs
12. ealirt giant



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1311/131102-most-powerful-people.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) lost his top ranking and has become a "lame duck" president. These included the recent
- ( ) is the most powerful person in the world. He knocks US President Barack Obama from the top
- ( ) commander-in-chief of the most dominant country in the world?" The magazine cites a number of reasons why Obama
- ( ) "actively uses their power". These factors put the U.N. Secretary-General 22 places behind the CEO of retail giant Wal-Mart.
- ( ) matter the most." It added that its list is: "An annual snapshot of the heads of state, financiers, philanthropists
- ( ) spot. "Forbes" is well known for compiling annual lists comparing the rich and famous. In its latest
- ( **1** ) The American business magazine "Forbes" has announced that Russian President Vladimir Putin
- ( ) Forbes wrote: "There are nearly 7.2 billion people on the planet. These are the 72 that
- ( ) "dimensions" to take into consideration. One is whether the candidate has power over lots of people;
- ( ) second is the financial resources at the disposal or control of each person; third is to what
- ( ) degree the person has power "in multiple spheres"; and finally, the extent to which he or she
- ( ) and entrepreneurs who truly run the world." It is put together by Forbes' editors, who have four
- ( ) "government shutdown mess," his foreign policy on Syria and the ongoing spying and security leaks scandals.
- ( ) ranking, it asked: "Who's more powerful: the autocratic leader of a former superpower or the handcuffed

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1311/131102-most-powerful-people.html>

1. Obama from the top spot He knocks US President Barack.

---

2. the Compiling rich annual and lists famous comparing.

---

3. number of reasons why Obama lost The magazine cites a.

---

4. recent the included These mess shutdown government.

---

5. Syria ongoing His on the policy and spying foreign.

---

6. the the most 72 that These matter are.

---

7. of the An heads annual of snapshot state.

---

8. dimensions take consideration Four to into.

---

9. the power of Whether has lots candidate over people.

---

10. is degree has Third what person to the power.

---

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1311/131102-most-powerful-people.html>

The American business magazine "Forbes" *has / was* announced that Russian President Vladimir Putin is the most powerful person in the world. He *knocks / shoves* US President Barack Obama from the top spot. "Forbes" is well known for *competing / compiling* annual lists comparing the rich and famous. In its latest *ranking / wrangling*, it asked: "Who's more powerful: the *autocratic / autocracy* leader of a former superpower or the *cufflinked / handcuffed* commander-in-chief of the most *dormant / dominant* country in the world?" The magazine *cites / sights* a number of reasons why Obama lost his top ranking and has become a "*cooked goose*" / "*lame duck*" president. These included the recent "government shutdown mess," his foreign policy on Syria and the *goings on / ongoing* spying and security leaks scandals.

Forbes wrote: "There are nearly 7.2 billion people *on / in* the planet. These are the 72 that matter the most." It added that its *rank / list* is: "An annual snapshot of the *heads / faces* of state, financiers, philanthropists and entrepreneurs who *truly / truthfully* run the world." It is put together by Forbes' *editor / editors*, who have four "dimensions" to take *onto / into* consideration. One is whether the candidate has power *under / over* lots of people; second is the financial resources at the disposal or control of each person; third is to *how / what* degree the person has power "in multiple spheres"; and finally, the extent *to / as* which he or she "actively uses their power". These factors put the U.N. Secretary-General 22 places *arrear / behind* the CEO of retail giant Wal-Mart.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1311/131102-most-powerful-people.html>

Th\_ \_m\_r\_c\_n b\_s\_n\_ss m\_g\_z\_n\_ "F\_rb\_s" h\_s  
\_nn\_\_nc\_d th\_t R\_ss\_\_n Pr\_s\_d\_nt Vl\_d\_m\_r P\_t\_n\_s  
th\_ m\_st p\_w\_rf\_l p\_rs\_n \_n th\_ w\_rld. H\_ kn\_ck\_s \_S  
Pr\_s\_d\_nt B\_r\_ck \_b\_m\_ fr\_m th\_ t\_p sp\_t. "F\_rb\_s" \_s  
w\_ll kn\_wn f\_r c\_mpl\_ng \_nn\_\_l l\_sts c\_mpr\_ng th\_  
r\_ch \_nd f\_m\_\_s. \_n \_ts l\_t\_st r\_nk\_ng, \_t \_sk\_d:  
"Wh\_'s m\_r\_ p\_w\_rf\_l: th\_ \_\_t cr\_t\_c l\_\_d\_r \_f \_  
f\_rm\_r s\_p\_rp\_w\_r \_r th\_ h\_ndc\_ff\_d c\_mm\_nd\_r-n-  
ch\_\_f\_f th\_ m\_st d\_m\_n\_nt c\_\_ntry \_n th\_ w\_rld?" Th\_  
m\_g\_z\_n\_ c\_t\_s \_n mb\_r\_f r\_\_s\_ns why \_b\_m\_ l\_st  
h\_s t\_p r\_nk\_ng \_nd h\_s b\_c\_m\_ \_ "l\_m\_ d\_ck"  
pr\_s\_d\_nt. Th\_s\_ \_ncl\_d\_d th\_ r\_c\_nt "g\_v\_rnm\_nt  
sh\_td\_wn m\_ss," h\_s f\_r\_gn p\_l\_cy \_n Syr\_\_ \_nd th\_  
\_ng\_\_ng spy\_ng \_nd s\_c\_r\_ty l\_\_ks sc\_nd\_ls.

F\_rb\_s wr\_t\_: "Th\_r\_ \_r\_n\_\_rly 7.2 b\_ll\_\_n p\_\_pl\_ \_n  
th\_ pl\_n\_t. Th\_s\_ \_r th\_ 72 th\_t m\_tt\_r th\_ m\_st." \_t  
\_dd\_d th\_t \_ts l\_st \_s: "\_n \_nn\_\_l sn\_psh\_t \_f th\_  
h\_\_ds \_f st\_t\_, f\_n\_nc\_\_rs, ph\_l\_nthr\_p\_sts \_nd  
\_ntr\_pr\_n\_\_rs wh\_ tr\_ly r\_n th\_ w\_rld." \_t \_s p\_t  
t\_g\_th\_r by F\_rb\_s' \_d\_t\_rs, wh\_ h\_v\_ f\_\_r  
"d\_m\_ns\_\_ns" t\_t\_k\_ \_nt c\_ns\_d\_r\_t\_\_n. \_n\_ \_s  
wh\_th\_r th\_ c\_nd\_d\_t\_ h\_s p\_w\_r\_v\_rl\_ts \_f p\_\_pl\_;  
s\_c\_nd \_s th\_ f\_n\_nc\_\_l r\_s\_\_rc\_s \_t th\_ d\_sp\_s\_l\_r  
c\_ntr\_l \_f \_\_ch p\_rs\_n; th\_r\_d \_s t\_ wh\_t d\_gr\_\_ th\_  
p\_rs\_n h\_s p\_w\_r "\_n m\_lt\_pl\_ sph\_r\_s"; \_nd f\_n\_lly,  
th\_ \_xt\_nt t\_ wh\_ch h\_ \_r sh\_ "\_ct\_v\_ly \_s\_s th\_\_r  
p\_w\_r". Th\_s\_ f\_ct\_rs p\_t th\_ \_N. S\_cr\_t\_ry-G\_n\_r\_l  
22 pl\_c\_s b\_h\_nd th\_ C\_\_ \_f r\_t\_ l\_g\_\_nt W\_l-M\_rt.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1311/131102-most-powerful-people.html>

the american business magazine "forbes" has announced that russian president vladimir putin is the most powerful person in the world he knocks us president barack obama from the top spot "forbes" is well known for compiling annual lists comparing the rich and famous in its latest ranking it asked "who's more powerful the autocratic leader of a former superpower or the handcuffed commander-in-chief of the most dominant country in the world" the magazine cites a number of reasons why obama lost his top ranking and has become a "lame duck" president these included the recent "government shutdown mess" his foreign policy on syria and the ongoing spying and security leaks scandals

forbes wrote "there are nearly 7.2 billion people on the planet these are the 7.2 that matter the most" it added that its list is "an annual snapshot of the heads of state financiers philanthropists and entrepreneurs who truly run the world" it is put together by forbes' editors who have four "dimensions" to take into consideration one is whether the candidate has power over lots of people second is the financial resources at the disposal or control of each person third is to what degree the person has power "in multiple spheres" and finally the extent to which he or she "actively uses their power" these factors put the un secretary-general 22 places behind the ceo of retail giant wal-mart

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1311/131102-most-powerful-people.html>

The American business magazine "Forbes" has announced that Russian President Vladimir Putin is the most powerful person in the world. He knocks US President Barack Obama from the top spot. "Forbes" is well known for compiling annual lists comparing the rich and famous. In its latest ranking, it asked: "Who's more powerful: the autocratic leader of a former superpower or the handcuffed commander-in-chief of the most dominant country in the world?" The magazine cites a number of reasons why Obama lost his top ranking and has become a "lame duck" president. These included the recent "government shutdown mess," his foreign policy on Syria and the ongoing spying and security leak scandals. Forbes wrote: "There are nearly 7.2 billion people on the planet. These are the 72 that matter the most." It added that its list is: "An annual snapshot of the heads of state, financiers, philanthropists and entrepreneurs who truly run the world." It is put together by Forbes' editors, who have four "dimensions" to take into consideration. One is whether the candidate has power over a lot of people; second is the financial resources at their disposal or control of each person; third is to what degree the person has power "in multiple spheres"; and finally, the extent to which he or she "actively uses their power". These factors put the U.N. Secretary-General 22 places behind the CEO of retail giant Wal-Mart.







# 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 the world's powerful people. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. POWERFUL PEOPLE:** Make a poster about powerful people in your country. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. VLADIMIR PUTIN:** Write a magazine article about Vladimir Putin being the most powerful person in the world. Include imaginary interviews with people who agree and with people who disagree.

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. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to Vladimir Putin. Ask him three questions about life as the world's most powerful people. Give him three ideas on how he can use his power to help the world. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |              |                      |
|--------------|----------------------|
| 1. announced | a. declared          |
| 2. spot      | b. position          |
| 3. compiling | c. putting together  |
| 4. former    | d. ex-               |
| 5. ongoing   | e. continuing        |
| 6. matter    | f. make a difference |
| 7. annual    | g. yearly            |
| 8. run       | h. control           |
| 9. spheres   | i. areas             |
| 10. giant    | j. colossus          |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. A business magazine
2. Barack Obama
3. Handcuffed
4. A "lame duck" president
5. That on Syria
6. 72
7. Annually
- 8.
9. Four
10. Whether they actively use their power

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. d    2. b    3. c    4. a    5. c    6. b    7. d    8. a    9. c    10. b

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)