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Level 4

U.N. makes first ever cut in staff

30th December, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut-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/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut-4.html>

The U.N. will cut staff for the first time ever. It OK'd its first cut since it first started in 1945. There will be 219 fewer positions, or two per cent of all U.N. jobs. The U.N. will also freeze pay rises and benefits for a year or two. Pressure from member states led to the reduced spending. Many countries are struggling to pay their contributions to the U.N. They are still suffering from the austerity measures they took after the global financial crisis.

The U.S. ambassador to the U.N. said the cuts were "crucial" and would reduce unnecessary jobs. He said other organisations are also taking measures to reduce costs and services. He added: "Our shared goal should be to ensure that the U.N. can maximise the results that it delivers with the amount of resources that member states are...able to provide."

The U.S. pays 22 per cent of the U.N. budget and is the U.N.'s biggest financial contributor.

Sources: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-12-27/united-nations-makes-first-staff-cut-since-1945-in-budget.html>
<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2013-12-27/united-nations-makes-first-staff-cut-since-1945-in-budget-deal>
<http://in.reuters.com/article/2013/12/27/us-un-budget-idINBRE9BQ0JX20131227>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. for the first | a. spending |
| 2. 219 fewer | b. time ever |
| 3. The U.N. will also freeze | c. measures |
| 4. reduced | d. financial crisis |
| 5. austerity | e. pay rises |
| 6. after the global | f. positions |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The U.S. ambassador | a. unnecessary jobs |
| 2. reduce | b. goal |
| 3. taking measures to | c. financial contributor |
| 4. shared | d. the results |
| 5. maximise | e. to the U.N. |
| 6. the U.N.'s biggest | f. reduce costs |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut-4.html>

The U.N. will cut (1) _____ time ever. It OK'd its first cut since it first started in 1945. There will be 219 (2) _____, or two per cent of all U.N. jobs. The U.N. will also (3) _____ and benefits for a year or two. Pressure from member states led to the (4) _____. Many countries are struggling to pay their contributions to the U.N. They are (5) _____ the austerity measures they took after the (6) _____.

The U.S. ambassador to the U.N. said the (7) _____ and would (8) _____. He said other organisations are also taking (9) _____ costs and services. He added: "Our shared goal should be to (10) _____ can maximise the results that it delivers with the (11) _____ that member states are...able to provide." The U.S. pays 22 per cent of the U.N. budget and is the U.N.'s (12) _____.

THE UNITED NATIONS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about the United Nations 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)

