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World split over Obama Nobel Prize

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:

http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0910/091018-obama_nobel_prize.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

18th October, 2009

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0910/091018-obama_nobel_prize.html

The world is divided over Barack Obama's Nobel Peace Prize. Many people think he deserved to get it. Many other people are shocked he got it. They say he hasn't really achieved much in his short time in office. Even President Obama said he was surprised to win the prize. The Nobel committee honoured him because of his "extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy". Another reason was his work to increase "cooperation between people". Obama decided to donate the \$1.4 million in prize money to charity.

Barack Obama won the prize after serving just 265 days as President. His biggest effort has been in trying to reduce nuclear weapons. The world is now watching him carefully. People hope he will bring peace rather than simply talking about it. Previous prize winners wished Obama well. Archbishop Desmond Tutu said: "It's an award that speaks to the promise of Obama's message of hope." Martti Ahtisaari said the award was a message to "push harder for a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict". Some reporters joked he won the prize for not being George W. Bush.

PHRASE MATCH

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0910/091018-obama_nobel_prize.html

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. The world is | a. much |
| 2. people think he deserved | b. divided |
| 3. he hasn't really achieved | c. people |
| 4. efforts to strengthen international | d. to get it |
| 5. cooperation between | e. in prize money |
| 6. donate the \$1.4 million | f. diplomacy |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. serving just 265 | a. bring peace |
| 2. trying to reduce nuclear | b. for a solution |
| 3. People hope he will | c. of hope |
| 4. Obama's message | d. days as President |
| 5. push harder | e. being George W. Bush |
| 6. he won the prize for not | f. weapons |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0910/091018-obama_nobel_prize.html

The world _____ Barack Obama's Nobel Peace Prize. Many people think he _____. Many other people are _____. They say he hasn't really achieved much in his short time in office. Even President Obama said he was surprised _____. The Nobel committee honoured him because of his "extraordinary _____ international diplomacy". Another reason was his work to increase "cooperation between people". Obama _____ the \$1.4 million in prize money to charity.

Barack Obama won the prize _____ 265 days as President. His biggest effort has _____ reduce nuclear weapons. The world is now watching him carefully. People hope he will _____ than simply talking about it. Previous prize winners wished Obama well. Archbishop Desmond Tutu said: "It's _____ to the promise of Obama's message of hope." Martti Ahtisaari said the award was a message to "_____ solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict". Some reporters joked he won the _____ George W. Bush.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0910/091018-obama_nobel_prize.html

The world is (1) _____ over Barack Obama's Nobel Peace Prize. Many people think he deserved to get it. Many (2) _____ people are shocked he got it. They say he hasn't really achieved (3) _____ in his short time in office. Even President Obama said he was surprised to win the prize. The Nobel committee honoured him because of his "extraordinary efforts to (4) _____ international diplomacy". Another reason was his work to increase "cooperation between people". Obama decided to donate the \$1.4 million in prize money (5) _____ charity.

Barack Obama won the prize after (6) _____ just 265 days as President. His biggest effort has been in trying to reduce nuclear weapons. The world is now watching him (7) _____. People hope he will bring peace rather than simply talking about it. Previous prize winners wished Obama (8) _____. Archbishop Desmond Tutu said: "It's an award that speaks to the promise of Obama's message of hope." Martti Ahtisaari said the award was a message to "(9) _____ harder for a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict". Some reporters joked he won the prize for not (10) _____ George W. Bush.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) multiplied | (b) added | (c) divided |
| 2. | (a) other | (b) others | (c) another |
| 3. | (a) many | (b) much | (c) most |
| 4. | (a) strengthen | (b) strong | (c) strength |
| 5. | (a) at | (b) to | (c) by |
| 6. | (a) serving | (b) service | (c) served |
| 7. | (a) carelessly | (b) carefully | (c) careful |
| 8. | (a) good | (b) better | (c) well |
| 9. | (a) pull | (b) push | (c) twist |
| 10. | (a) been | (b) is | (c) being |

SPELLING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0910/091018-obama_nobel_prize.html

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. The world is vddidei
2. he deesdevr to get it
3. his short time in foefic
4. he was isdursrpe to win
5. extraordinary otrfsf
6. oednta the \$1.4 million

Paragraph 2

7. neivrgs just 265 days
8. reduce nuclear opawsen
9. eprsviou prize winners
10. Obama's segasme of hope
11. push harder for a uitolsno
12. Some reporters ejkdo

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0910/091018-obama_nobel_prize.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () reduce nuclear weapons. The world is now watching him carefully. People hope he will bring peace rather than
- () “push harder for a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict”. Some reporters joked he won the prize for not being George W. Bush.
- () award that speaks to the promise of Obama’s message of hope.” Martti Ahtisaari said the award was a message to
- () Barack Obama won the prize after serving just 265 days as President. His biggest effort has been in trying to
- () The world is divided over Barack Obama’s Nobel Peace Prize. Many people think he deserved to get
- (**1**) work to increase “cooperation between people”. Obama decided to donate the \$1.4 million in prize money to charity.
- () in office. Even President Obama said he was surprised to win the prize. The Nobel committee honoured him
- () it. Many other people are shocked he got it. They say he hasn’t really achieved much in his short time
- () because of his “extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy”. Another reason was his
- () simply talking about it. Previous prize winners wished Obama well. Archbishop Desmond Tutu said: “It’s an

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. people get think it he deserved Many to.

2. much achieved really hasn't he say They.

3. was he said Obama win to surprised.

4. work His cooperation increase to.

5. Donate to in the charity prize \$1.4 money million.

6. the serving days won after 265 Obama prize just.

7. weapons nuclear reduce to Trying.

8. hope of message Obama's of promise The.

9. Israeli A - solution Palestinian to conflict the.

10. George W. Bush being not for prize the won He.

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. _____

WRITING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0910/091018-obama_nobel_prize.html

Write about Barack Obama for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.

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 more information about the Nobel Peace Prize. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Barack Obama. Include imaginary interviews with two people – one agrees that Obama deserved the prize, the other thinks he didn't deserve it. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. 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.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to President Barack Obama. Ask him three questions about his job. Give him three of your opinions on how he can make the world more peaceful. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.