



**BBC RADIO 4 NEWS**  
Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012  
10.00am

**ELEMENTARY: FILL IN THE MISSING WORDS**

1. The Russian \_\_\_\_\_ minister, Sergei Lavrov, has arrived in the Syrian \_\_\_\_\_ Damascus.
2. He is going to hold talks \_\_\_\_\_ President Assad.
3. For the \_\_\_\_\_ day in a \_\_\_\_\_ the Syrian army has been bombarding the \_\_\_\_\_ of Homs.
4. Homs has been at the \_\_\_\_\_ of resistance to the regime, i.e. the Syrian government.
5. Activists say at least \_\_\_\_\_ people were killed in Homs \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The Russians vetoed a \_\_\_\_\_ Security Council resolution \_\_\_\_\_.
7. They say \_\_\_\_\_ try to bring stability to the crisis.
8. The Foreign \_\_\_\_\_ minister Alistair Burt is sceptical about Mr Lavrov's mission.
9. He says 'If you \_\_\_\_\_ stop the killing through the UN, how are you \_\_\_\_\_ to stop the killing?'
  
10. The attorney general says the Government is 'very concerned' about the imminent release of the radical \_\_\_\_\_ cleric Abu Qatada.
11. The Government is \_\_\_\_\_ trying to deport Abu Qatada to Jordan.
12. Abu Qatada has been granted bail after \_\_\_\_\_ in detention.
13. Ministers don't want the Jordanians to use evidence obtained \_\_\_\_\_ torture against him.
  
14. The president of the Maldives has resigned following \_\_\_\_\_ of protests.
15. The protests were triggered by his \_\_\_\_\_ to arrest a senior judge.
16. Mr Nasheed, who used to be a political prisoner, \_\_\_\_\_ office in \_\_\_\_\_.
  
17. An all-party group of MPs and peers is calling for a \_\_\_\_\_ against stalkers to be introduced in England and \_\_\_\_\_.
18. An independent inquiry found that perpetrators weren't treated \_\_\_\_\_ enough under existing harassment legislation.
  
19. Party colleagues of the former Democratic Unionist leader, the Reverend Ian Paisley, say \_\_\_\_\_ 'deeply \_\_\_\_\_' about his condition in \_\_\_\_\_.
20. The \_\_\_\_\_-year-old former \_\_\_\_\_ Minister of \_\_\_\_\_ Ireland has been in intensive care with \_\_\_\_\_ problems since \_\_\_\_\_.
21. His \_\_\_\_\_ spent the \_\_\_\_\_ at his \_\_\_\_\_.



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**ELEMENTARY: ANSWERS**

1. The Russian foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, has arrived in the Syrian capital Damascus.
2. He is going to hold talks with President Assad.
3. For the fourth day in a row the Syrian army has been bombarding the city of Homs.
4. Homs has been at the heart of resistance to the regime, i.e. the Syrian government.
5. Activists say at least 50 people were killed in Homs yesterday.
6. The Russians vetoed a UN Security Council resolution at the weekend.
7. They say they'll try to bring stability to the crisis.
8. The Foreign Office minister Alistair Burt is sceptical about Mr Lavrov's mission.
9. He says 'If you can't stop the killing through the UN, how are you going to stop the killing?'
  
10. The attorney general says the Government is 'very concerned' about the imminent release of the radical Muslim cleric Abu Qatada.
11. The Government is still trying to deport Abu Qatada to Jordan.
12. Abu Qatada has been granted bail after 6½ years in detention.
13. Ministers don't want the Jordanians to use evidence obtained through torture against him.
  
14. The president of the Maldives has resigned following weeks of protests.
15. The protests were triggered by his order to arrest a senior judge.
16. Mr Nasheed, who used to be a political prisoner, took office in 2008.
  
17. An all-party group of MPs and peers is calling for a new law against stalkers to be introduced in England and Wales.
18. An independent inquiry found that perpetrators weren't treated firmly enough under existing harassment legislation.
  
19. Party colleagues of the former Democratic Unionist leader, the Reverend Ian Paisley, say they're 'deeply worried' about his condition in hospital.
20. The 85-year-old former First Minister of Northern Ireland has been in intensive care with heart problems since Sunday.
21. His family spent the night at his bedside.



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**INTERMEDIATE: QUESTIONS**

1. Who is Sergei Lavrov?
2. Which country is he visiting at the moment?
3. How long has the bombardment of the city of Homs been going on for?
4. How many people lost their lives in yesterday' fighting, according to activists?
5. Who vetoed a UN Security Council resolution at the weekend?
6. What will they try to bring to the crisis?
7. Which Government department does Alistair Burt work for?
8. Which word do you hear in front of 'carnage'?
  
9. How is the cleric Abu Qatada described?
10. Where does the British government want him deported to?
11. How long has Abu Qatada been in detention?
12. What evidence does the British government not want to be used against Abu Qatada? *Evidence obtained through \_\_\_\_\_.*
  
13. Who is Mohamed Nasheed?
14. What has he done following protests over his order to arrest a senior judge?
15. How long have the protests been going on for?
16. What did Mr Nasheed use to be?
17. When did he become president?
  
18. What is an all-party group of MPs and peers calling for a new law against?
19. Where would they like to see the new law introduced?
  
20. Which political party did the Reverend Ian Paisley use to be the leader of?
21. How do his party colleagues feel about his condition in hospital?
22. How old is the Reverend Ian Paisley?
23. Which political position did he use to hold in Northern Ireland?
24. Which department of the hospital has he been in since Sunday?
25. What type of medical problems is he suffering from?
26. Where did his family spend last night?



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**INTERMEDIATE: ANSWERS**

1. Who is Sergei Lavrov? **He's the Russian foreign minister.**
2. Which country is he visiting at the moment? **Syria**
3. How long has the bombardment of the city of Homs been going on for? **for four days ('For the fourth day in a row...')**
4. How many people lost their lives in yesterday' fighting, according to activists? **at least 50**
5. Who vetoed a UN Security Council resolution at the weekend? **the Russians**
6. What will they try to bring to the crisis? **stability**
7. Which Government department does Alistair Burt work for? **the Foreign Office**
8. Which word do you hear in front of 'carnage'? **'appalling'**
  
9. How is the cleric Abu Qatada described? **as 'the radical Muslim cleric'**
10. Where does the British government want him deported to? **Jordan**
11. How long has Abu Qatada been in detention? **for 6½ years**
12. What evidence does the British government not want to be used against Abu Qatada? **Evidence obtained through torture.**
  
13. Who is Mohamed Nasheed? **He's the president of the Maldives.**
14. What has he done following protests over his order to arrest a senior judge? **He has resigned.**
15. How long have the protests been going on for? **for weeks**
16. What did Mr Nasheed use to be? **a political prisoner**
17. When did he become president? **in 2008**
  
18. What is an all-party group of MPs and peers calling for a new law against? **stalking**
19. Where would they like to see the new law introduced? **in England and Wales**
  
20. Which political party did the Reverend Ian Paisley use to be the leader of? **the Democratic Unionist Party**
21. How do his party colleagues feel about his condition in hospital? **'deeply concerned'**
22. How old is the Reverend Ian Paisley? **85.**
23. Which political position did he use to hold in Northern Ireland? **First Minister**
24. Which department of the hospital has he been in since Sunday? **intensive care**
25. What type of medical problems is he suffering from? **heart problems**
26. Where did his family spend last night? **at his bedside**



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**ADVANCED: TRUE/FALSE**

1. The Russian security minister has arrived in the Syrian capital, Damascus.
2. The Syrian army has been bombarding the city of Homs since Sunday.
3. Homs has been at the heart of assistance to the regime.
4. Activists say at least 50 people lost their lives in fighting in Homs yesterday.
5. The Russians vetoed a US Security Council resolution at the weekend.
6. They say they'll attempt to bring stability to the crisis.
7. The Foreign Office minister Alistair Burd is sceptical about Mr Lavrov's mission.
8. He spoke about 'this appealing carnage'.
  
9. The attorney general Dominic Grieve has said that the Government's 'very concerned' about the eminent release of the radical Muslim cleric, Abu Qatada.
10. The British government wants to deport Abu Qatada to Jordan.
11. Abu Qatada has been granted bail after 6½ months in detention.
12. Ministers want the Jordanians to assure them that evidence obtained through torture won't be used against him.
  
13. The president of the Maldives, Mohamed Nasheed, has been sacked.
14. His order to arrest a senior judge triggered weeks of protests.
15. Mr Nasheed used to be a political prisoner, but he has been president since 2008.
16. The Maldives have always held multi-party elections.
  
17. An all-party group of MPs and peers is calling for a new law against stalking to be introduced in England and Wales.
18. The independent parliamentary inquiry found that perpetrators 'weren't treated fairly enough' under existing harassment legislation.
  
19. The Reverend Ian Paisley used to be the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party.
20. His colleagues say they're 'deep worried' by the condition of the hospital he's in.
21. Reverend Paisley used to be the First Minister of the Irish Republic.
22. He's been in extensive care since Sunday with heart problems.
23. His family were with him last night.



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**ADVANCED: ANSWERS**

1. The Russian security minister has arrived in the Syrian capital, Damascus. (F 'The Russian foreign minister')
2. The Syrian army has been bombarding the city of Homs since Sunday. (F 'For the fourth day in a row the Syrian army has resumed its bombardment of the city of Homs...')
3. Homs has been at the heart of assistance to the regime. (F 'which has been at the heart of resistance to the regime')
4. Activists say at least 50 people lost their lives in fighting in Homs yesterday. (T)
5. The Russians vetoed a US Security Council resolution at the weekend. (F 'a UN Security Council resolution')
6. They say they'll attempt to bring stability to the crisis. (T)
7. The Foreign Office minister Alistair Burd is sceptical about Mr Lavrov's mission. (F 'Alistair Burd')
8. He spoke about 'this appalling carnage'. (F 'appalling carnage')
  
9. The attorney general Dominic Grieve has said that the Government's 'very concerned' about the eminent release of the radical Muslim cleric, Abu Qatada. (F 'about the imminent release')
10. The British government wants to deport Abu Qatada to Jordan. (T 'it's still trying to deport him to Jordan')
11. Abu Qatada has been granted bail after 6½ months in detention. (F 'after 6½ years in detention')
12. Ministers want the Jordanians to assure them that evidence obtained through torture won't be used against him. (T)
  
13. The president of the Maldives, Mohamed Nasheed, has been sacked. (F He 'has resigned'.)
14. His order to arrest a senior judge triggered weeks of protests. (T)
15. Mr Nasheed used to be a political prisoner, but he has been president since 2008. (T)
16. The Maldives have always held multi-party elections. (F He 'took office in 2008 in the Maldives' first multi-party elections'.)
  
17. An all-party group of MPs and peers is calling for a new law against talking to be introduced in England and Wales. (F 'against stalking', not talking)
18. The independent parliamentary inquiry found that perpetrators 'weren't treated fairly enough' under existing harassment legislation. (F 'weren't treated firmly enough')
  
19. The Reverend Ian Paisley used to be the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party. (T)
20. His colleagues say they're 'deep worried' by the condition of the hospital he's in. (F 'they're deeply worried about his condition in hospital')
21. Reverend Paisley used to be the First Minister of the Irish Republic. (F 'First Minister of Northern Ireland')
22. He's been in extensive care since Sunday with heart problems. (F 'in intensive care')
23. His family were with him last night. (T 'His family spent the night at his bedside.')