



**BBC RADIO 4 NEWS**  
Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012  
10.00am

**ELEMENTARY: CORRECT THE MISTAKE IN EACH SENTENCE**

1. The newsreader starts by saying that 4.8 million Lloyds DSB customers are going to be transferred to the Cooperative Bank.
2. Lloyds has agreed to sell 360 bank branches.
3. The taxpayer owns 14% of Lloyds.
4. The agreement is worth almost \$750 million.
5. It will give the Coop almost a quarter of the UK bank network.
6. The Treasury minister Mark Oban said customers should benefit from increased competition.
7. The minister said it was a real opportunity for the Coop 'to sell its windows, its er, products to these customers'.
  
8. Activists in Syria's second city Damascus say they've suffered the heaviest bombardment by government forces since the uprising began.
9. They claim 'a family procession was hit during the attacks'.
10. The newsreader says three members of President Assad's inner chamber were killed in a bombing yesterday.
  
11. The number of murders, manslaughters and infanticides recorded by police in the UK has fallen to its lowest level in almost 30 years.
12. The latest figures show the total number of crimes has fallen to below 4 million for the first time in 20 years.
  
13. Retail sales rose by just 0.1% in May.
14. The newsreader says this is much higher than experts had been predicting.
15. Mothercare, GGB Sports and Halfords all reported disappointing results.
16. The CEO of Halfords was David Vild.
17. He stepped down after the company issued a private warning.
  
18. The Scottish Whisky Association says it's lodged a formal complaint to the European Commission about plans to introduce 'a minimum united price for alcohol'.
19. Scotland's government wants to increase the price of cheap soft drinks because of public health concerns.
20. The association says the move distorts the drunks market.



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**ELEMENTARY: ANSWERS**

1. The newsreader starts by saying that 4.8 million Lloyds DSB customers are going to be transferred to the Cooperative Bank. **Lloyds TSB**
2. Lloyds has agreed to sell 360 bank branches. **630** bank branches
3. The taxpayer owns 14% of Lloyds. **40%**
4. The agreement is worth almost \$750 million. **£750 million**
5. It will give the Coop almost a quarter of the UK bank network. **nearly 10% of the UK banking network**
6. The Treasury minister Mark Oban said customers should benefit from increased competition. **Mark Hoban**
7. The minister said it was a real opportunity for the Coop 'to sell its windows, its er, products to these customers'. **'to sell its values, its er, products...'**
  
8. Activists in Syria's second city Damascus say they've suffered the heaviest bombardment by government forces since the uprising began. **in the Syrian capital Damascus**
9. They claim 'a family procession was hit during the attacks'. **'a funeral procession**
10. The newsreader says three members of President Assad's inner chamber were killed in a bombing yesterday. **inner circle**
  
11. The number of murders, manslaughters and infanticides recorded by police in the UK has fallen to its lowest level in almost 30 years. **'in England and Wales' i.e. Not the whole of the UK, which includes Scotland and Northern Ireland as well.**
12. The latest figures show the total number of crimes has fallen to below 4 million for the first time in 20 years. **'for the first time since 1989' i.e. for the first time in 23 years**
  
13. Retail sales rose by just 0.1% in May. **'last month' i.e. in June**
14. The newsreader says this is much higher than experts had been predicting. **much lower, not higher**
15. Mothercare, GGB Sports and Halfords all reported disappointing results. **JJB Sports**
16. The CEO of Halfords was David Vild. **David Wild**
17. He stepped down after the company issued a private warning. **a profit warning**
  
18. The Scottish Whisky Association says it's lodged a formal complaint to the European Commission about plans to introduce 'a minimum united price for alcohol'. **'a minimum unit price for alcohol'**
19. Scotland's government wants to increase the price of cheap soft drinks because of public health concerns. **cheap strong drinks**
20. The association says the move distorts the drunks market. **the drinks market**



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**INTERMEDIATE: QUESTIONS**

1. How many Lloyds TSB customers are going to be transferred to the Cooperative Bank?
2. What has Lloyds agreed to sell?
3. What percentage of Lloyds is owned by the taxpayer?
4. How much is the agreement worth?
5. What will the agreement give the Coop nearly 10% of?
6. Who should benefit from increased competition, according to the Treasury minister, Mark Hoban?
7. What will the Coop be able to sell to these new customers, according to the minister? *its \_\_\_\_\_ and its \_\_\_\_\_*
  
8. Who are said to be bombarding activists in the Syrian capital, Damascus?
9. What was hit during these attacks, according to activists?
10. Who were killed in a bombing yesterday? \_\_\_\_\_  
*President Assad's \_\_\_\_\_*
  
11. What has the number of murders, manslaughters and infanticides recorded by police in England and Wales fallen to?
12. When was the last time that the total number of crimes fell to below four million?
  
13. How much did retail sales rise by last month?
14. Is this better or worse than experts had been expecting?
15. Name the two companies mentioned besides Halfords:
16. What is the name of the Halfords CEO who has just resigned?
17. Which phrasal verb means 'to resign'?
18. What did Halfords issue?
  
19. Which association has lodged, or made, a formal complaint to the European Commission?
20. What is the Scottish government planning to introduce a minimum unit price for?
21. What does the Scottish government want to increase the price of?
22. Why is this? *Because of \_\_\_\_\_ concerns.*
23. What will these rules distort, according to the association?



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**INTERMEDIATE: ANSWERS**

1. How many Lloyds TSB customers are going to be transferred to the Cooperative Bank? **4.8 million**
2. What has Lloyds agreed to sell? **630 bank branches**
3. What percentage of Lloyds is owned by the taxpayer? **40%**
4. How much is the agreement worth? **almost £750 million**
5. What will the agreement give the Coop nearly 10% of? **the UK bank network**
6. Who should benefit from increased competition, according to the Treasury minister, Mark Hoban? **customers**
7. What will the Coop be able to sell to these new customers, according to the minister? **its values and its products**
  
8. Who are said to be bombarding activists in the Syrian capital, Damascus? **government forces**
9. What was hit during these attacks, according to activists? **a funeral procession**
10. Who were killed in a bombing yesterday? **three members of President Assad's inner circle**
  
11. What has the number of murders, manslaughters and infanticides recorded by police in England and Wales fallen to? **its lowest level in almost 30 years**
12. When was the last time that the total number of crimes fell to below four million? **1989**
  
13. How much did retail sales rise by last month? **0.1%**
14. Is this better or worse than experts had been expecting? **worse ('a much lower figure than experts had been predicting')**
15. Name the two companies mentioned besides Halfords: **Mothercare and JJB Sports**
16. What is the name of the Halfords CEO who has just resigned? **David Wild**
17. Which phrasal verb means 'to resign'? **'to step down' (David Wild 'stepped down after the company issued a profit warning'.)**
18. What did Halfords issue? **a profit warning**
  
19. Which association has lodged, or made, a formal complaint to the European Commission? **The Scottish Whisky Association**
20. What is the Scottish government planning to introduce a minimum unit price for? **alcohol**
21. What does the Scottish government want to increase the price of? **cheap strong drinks**
22. Why is this? **Because of public health concerns.**
23. What will these rules distort, according to the association? **the drinks market**



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**ADVANCED: GAP-FILL**

1. It's been announced that \_\_\_\_\_ customers who are \_\_\_\_\_ with Lloyds \_\_\_\_\_ are going to be transferred onto the books of the \_\_\_\_\_ Bank.
2. Lloyds has \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ 630 bank \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The taxpayer owns \_\_\_\_\_% of Lloyds.
4. Lloyds \_\_\_\_\_ to make the \_\_\_\_\_ to comply with European \_\_\_\_\_ on state aid.
5. The agreement is \_\_\_\_\_ nearly £\_\_\_\_\_ million.
6. The agreement will give the Coop nearly \_\_\_\_\_% of the UK bank \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ minister Mark Hoban spoke about the benefits to customers from increased \_\_\_\_\_.
8. He said one of the \_\_\_\_\_ for the Coop was to show existing Lloyds customers why they \_\_\_\_\_ them a \_\_\_\_\_ deal \_\_\_\_\_ Lloyds \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Mr Hoban said it was a real \_\_\_\_\_ for the Coop to \_\_\_\_\_ its \_\_\_\_\_ and its products to these customers 'to keep \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ them as possible'.
10. Activists in the Syrian \_\_\_\_\_ Damascus say \_\_\_\_\_ suffered the \_\_\_\_\_ bombardment from government forces \_\_\_\_\_ the start of the uprising.
11. They claim a \_\_\_\_\_ procession \_\_\_\_\_ during the attacks.
12. Yesterday three members of President Assad's \_\_\_\_\_ were \_\_\_\_\_ in a bombing.
13. The number of murders, \_\_\_\_\_ and infanticides recorded by police in England and \_\_\_\_\_ to its \_\_\_\_\_ level in almost \_\_\_\_\_ years.
14. The \_\_\_\_\_ are provided by the \_\_\_\_\_ National Statistics.
15. They show the \_\_\_\_\_ number of crimes \_\_\_\_\_ to below four million for the \_\_\_\_\_ time in 23 years.
16. Retail sales \_\_\_\_\_ by just \_\_\_\_\_% in June - a much \_\_\_\_\_ figure \_\_\_\_\_ experts \_\_\_\_\_ predicting.
17. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Sports and Halfords all revealed \_\_\_\_\_ results.
18. The CEO of Halfords, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ after the company issued a profit \_\_\_\_\_.
19. The \_\_\_\_\_ Association has lodged a formal \_\_\_\_\_ to the European Commission about plans to introduce a \_\_\_\_\_ unit price for \_\_\_\_\_.
20. Scotland's \_\_\_\_\_ wants to increase the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ drinks because of public \_\_\_\_\_ concerns.
21. The association insists the move breaks \_\_\_\_\_ trade rules by \_\_\_\_\_ the drinks market.



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**ADVANCED: ANSWERS**

1. It's been announced that 4.8 million customers who are currently with Lloyds TSB are going to be transferred onto the books of the Cooperative Bank.
2. Lloyds has agreed to sell 630 bank branches.
3. The taxpayer owns 40% of Lloyds.
4. Lloyds had to make the sale to comply with European rules on state aid.
5. The agreement is worth nearly £750 million.
6. The agreement will give the Coop nearly 10% of the UK bank network.
7. The Treasury minister Mark Hoban spoke about the benefits to customers from increased competition.
8. He said one of the challenges for the Coop was to show existing Lloyds customers why they offer them a much better deal than Lloyds did.
9. Mr Hoban said it was a real opportunity for the Coop to sell its values and its products to these customers 'to keep as many of them as possible'.
  
10. Activists in the Syrian capital Damascus say they've suffered the heaviest bombardment from government forces since the start of the uprising.
11. They claim a funeral procession was hit during the attacks.
12. Yesterday three members of President Assad's inner circle were killed in a bombing.
  
13. The number of murders, manslaughters and infanticides recorded by police in England and Wales has fallen to its lowest level in almost 30 years.
14. The figures are provided by the Office for National Statistics.
15. They show the total number of crimes has fallen to below four million for the first time in 23 years.
  
16. Retail sales rose by just 0.1% in June - a much lower figure than experts had been predicting.
17. Mothercare, JJB Sports and Halfords all revealed disappointing results.
18. The CEO of Halfords, David Wild, stepped down after the company issued a profit warning.
  
19. The Scottish Whisky Association has lodged a formal complaint to the European Commission about plans to introduce a minimum unit price for alcohol.
20. Scotland's government wants to increase the price of cheap strong drinks because of public health concerns.
21. The association insists the move breaks EU trade rules by distorting the drinks market.