



BBC RADIO 4 NEWS
Thursday, 23rd February 2012
10.00am

ELEMENTARY: CORRECT THE MISTAKE IN EACH SENTENCE

1. Royal Bank of Scotland has announced pre-tax profits of £766 million.
2. This is almost half the previous year's figure.
3. The bank is paying £319 million in bonuses to its 17,000 investment bankers.
4. The taxpayers own nearly half of RBS.
5. RBS says it's making good progress is reducing lawsuits.
6. Ralph Sellar is a banking analyst.
7. He says RBS needs to pay the bonuses to retain customers.
8. He says 'We've already lost a lot of RBS's hockey players.'

9. At least 48 people have died in a series of gun attacks in Iraq.
10. One of the attacks was in the capital, Baghdad.
11. The attacks took place late last night.

12. The finance secretary, William Hague, has ruled out military intervention in Syria.
13. Syria has lost 50% of its revenues because it's banned from exporting oil to Europe.
14. Mr Hague was interviewed on the Tonight programme.
15. He was asked about the possibility of war in Iraq.
16. Mr Hague said 'We don't take any options off the agenda for the future.'

17. Andrew Lansley is the wealth secretary.
18. There are reports that some doctors are granting men illegal abortions based on the sex of their unborn baby.
19. The Daily Telegraph says it's secretly filmed doctors at Finnish clinics agreeing to terminate foetuses because they were either male or female.

20. The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health is the latest medical organisation to call on the Government to withdraw the Health and Sexual Care Bill.
21. The Royal Colleges represent JPs, nurses, midwives and radiologists.
22. Ministers insist the bill will improve patient care in the UK.



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ELEMENTARY: ANSWERS

1. Royal Bank of Scotland has announced pre-tax profits of £766 million. **pre-tax losses**
2. This is almost half the previous year's figure. **'almost twice the previous year's figure'**
3. The bank is paying £319 million in bonuses to its 17,000 investment bankers. **£390 million**
4. The taxpayers own nearly half of RBS. **'RBS, which is 82%-owned by the taxpayer...'**
5. RBS says it's making good progress is reducing lawsuits. **'in reducing losses'**
6. Ralph Sellar is a banking analyst. **Ralph Silver**
7. He says RBS needs to pay the bonuses to retain customers. **to retain staff**
8. He says 'We've already lost a lot of RBS's hockey players.' **'a lot of RBS's key players'**

9. At least 48 people have died in a series of gun attacks in Iraq. **'in a series of bomb attacks'**
10. One of the attacks was in the capital, Baghdad. **'Nine of the attacks were in the capital, Baghdad...'**
11. The attacks took place late last night. **'during the morning rush hour'**

12. The finance secretary, William Hague, has ruled out military intervention in Syria. **The foreign secretary**
13. Syria has lost 50% of its revenues because it's banned from exporting oil to Europe. **'a quarter' i.e. 25%**
14. Mr Hague was interviewed on the Tonight programme. **'Interviewed on Today', i.e. the Today programme**
15. He was asked about the possibility of war in Iraq. **in Iran**
16. Mr Hague said 'We don't take any options off the agenda for the future.' **'We don't take any options off the table for the future...'**

17. Andrew Lansley is the health secretary. **He's the health secretary.**
18. There are reports that some doctors are granting men illegal abortions based on the sex of their unborn baby. **'are granting women', not men**
19. The Daily Telegraph says it's secretly filmed doctors at Finnish clinics agreeing to terminate foetuses because they were either male or female. **'doctors at British clinics'**

20. The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health is the latest medical organisation to call on the Government to withdraw the Health and Sexual Care Bill. **the Health and Social Care Bill**
21. The Royal Colleges represent JPs, nurses, midwives and radiologists. **GPs**
22. Ministers insist the bill will improve patient care in the UK. **in England, not the UK**



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INTERMEDIATE: QUESTIONS

1. What do the initials RBS stand for?
2. How much money did RBS lose before tax last year?
3. Is this better, or worse, than last year?
4. How do the unions feel about the bank's decision to pay bonuses to its investment bankers?
5. How much money will they receive in bonuses?
6. How many investment bankers does the bank have?
7. What percentage of RBS is owned by the British taxpayer?
8. What is the banking analyst's surname?
9. Why does RBS have to pay these bonuses, according to the analyst? *To retain (i.e. keep) _____.*
10. What has RBS already lost, according to the analyst?

11. How many people have lost their lives in a series of bomb attacks in Iraq?
12. Where did nine of the attacks take place?
13. When did the attacks happen?

14. Who is William Hague?
15. Where has he ruled out military intervention?
16. Which word do you hear in front of 'sanctions'?
17. What proportion of its revenues has Syria lost since the sanctions were introduced?
18. What is Syria unable to export oil to at the moment?
19. Which radio programme did Mr Hague appear on?
20. What was Mr Hague also asked about?

21. Who is Andrew Lansley?
22. What are some doctors reportedly granting women illegal abortions on the basis of?
23. Where did the Daily Telegraph secretary film doctors?

24. What are a number of health organisations calling on the Government to withdraw?
25. Who do the Royal Colleges represent, in addition to radiologists?
26. What will the bill do, according to ministers?



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INTERMEDIATE: ANSWERS

1. What do the initials RBS stand for? **Royal Bank of Scotland**
2. How much money did RBS lose before tax last year? **£766 million**
3. Is this better, or worse, than last year? **worse - 'almost twice the previous year's figure'**
4. How do the unions feel about the bank's decision to pay bonuses to its investment bankers? **angry ('To the anger of the unions, it's paying...')**
5. How much money will they receive in bonuses? **£390 million**
6. How many investment bankers does the bank have? **17,000**
7. What percentage of RBS is owned by the British taxpayer? **82%**
8. What is the banking analyst's surname? **Silver**
9. Why does RBS have to pay these bonuses, according to the analyst? **To retain (i.e. keep) staff.**
10. What has RBS already lost, according to the analyst? **a lot of key players**

11. How many people have lost their lives in a series of bomb attacks in Iraq? **at least 48**
12. Where did nine of the attacks take place? **in the capital, Baghdad**
13. When did the attacks happen? **during the morning rush hour**

14. Who is William Hague? **He's the foreign secretary.**
15. Where has he ruled out military intervention? **in Syria**
16. Which word do you hear in front of 'sanctions'? **'economic'**
17. What proportion of its revenues has Syria lost since the sanctions were introduced? **a quarter**
18. What is Syria unable to export oil to at the moment? **Europe**
19. Which radio programme did Mr Hague appear on? **the Today programme**
20. What was Mr Hague also asked about? **the possibility of war with Iran**

21. Who is Andrew Lansley? **He's the health secretary.**
22. What are some doctors reportedly granting women illegal abortions on the basis of? **the sex of their unborn baby**
23. Where did the Daily Telegraph secretary film doctors? **at British clinics**

24. What are a number of health organisations calling on the Government to withdraw? **The Health and Social Care Bill**
25. Who do the Royal Colleges represent, in addition to radiologists? **GPs, nurses and midwives**
26. What will the bill do, according to ministers? **It will improve patient care in England.**



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ADVANCED: GAP-FILL

1. Royal Bank of _____ has announced pre-tax _____ of £ _____ million.
2. This is nearly _____ the figure for the _____ year.
3. The bank has made the _____ very angry because it's _____ £ _____ million to its _____ investment bankers.
4. British taxpayers own _____% of RBS.
5. RBS says it's making _____ in cutting losses.
6. The banking analyst Ralph _____ says it's necessary for RBS to pay the bonuses to _____.
7. He says 'We've already _____ a lot of RBS's _____ players - the ones who _____ in the _____ of money have already _____ and we don't want the _____ that are _____ to actually _____. So we need to _____ them. Why? It's _____ money. We need them to _____ money so we _____ get it _____.'
8. He went on to say that RBS has taken the _____.
9. RBS has cut bonuses more than _____, according to the analyst.

10. At least _____ people have lost their lives in a _____ of bomb attacks in Iraq.
11. Nine of the attacks were in the _____, Baghdad, during the morning _____.

12. The _____ secretary William Hague has _____ military intervention in Syria.
13. He said that the Government's _____ on economic sanctions was _____.
14. Mr Hague claimed that Syria _____ a _____ of its revenues due to these sanctions.
15. This is because it's _____ from _____ oil to Europe.
16. Mr Hague appeared on the _____ programme where he was asked _____ the possibility _____ war _____ Iran.
17. Mr Hague said while the Government wasn't advocating war in Iran, 'We don't _____ any options off the _____ for the _____.'

18. The _____ secretary, Andrew Lansley, says he's _____ concerned about reports that some _____ are granting women illegal abortions based on the sex of their _____.
19. The Daily Telegraph says it's _____ filmed doctors at _____ clinics agreeing to terminate foetuses because they were either _____ or _____.

20. The _____ College of Paediatricians and Child Health is the _____ medical organisation to call on the Government to _____ the Health and Social Care _____.
21. The Royal Colleges represent _____, _____, _____ and radiologists.
22. They have already made _____ claims.
23. Ministers _____ the bill will _____ patient care in England.



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ADVANCED: ANSWERS

1. Royal Bank of **Scotland** has announced pre-tax **losses** of **£766** million.
2. This is nearly **twice** the figure for the **previous** year.
3. The bank has made the **unions** very angry because it's **paying** **£390** million to its **17,000** investment bankers.
4. British taxpayers own **82%** of RBS.
5. RBS says it's making **good progress** in cutting losses.
6. The banking analyst Ralph **Silver** says it's necessary for RBS to pay the bonuses to **retain staff**.
7. He says 'We've already **lost** a lot of RBS's **key** players - the ones who **bring** in the **vast majority** of money have already **left** and we don't want the **ones** that are **left** to actually **go**. So we need to **keep** them. Why? It's **our** money. We need them to **make** money so we **can** get it **back**.'
8. He went on to say that RBS has taken the **first step**.
9. RBS has cut bonuses more than **anyone else**, according to the analyst.

10. At least **48** people have lost their lives in a **series** of bomb attacks in Iraq.
11. Nine of the attacks were in the **capital**, Baghdad, during the morning **rush hour**.

12. The **foreign** secretary William Hague has **ruled out** military intervention in Syria.
13. He said that the Government's **policy** on economic sanctions was **working**.
14. Mr Hague claimed that Syria **had lost** a **quarter** of its revenues due to these sanctions.
15. This is because it's **banned** from **exporting** oil to Europe.
16. Mr Hague appeared on the **Today** programme where he was asked **about** the possibility **of** war **with** Iran.
17. Mr Hague said while the Government wasn't advocating war in Iran, 'We don't **take** any options off the **table** for the **future**.'

18. The **health** secretary, Andrew Lansley, says he's **extremely** concerned about reports that some **doctors** are granting women illegal abortions based on the sex of their **unborn baby**.
19. The Daily Telegraph says it's **secretly** filmed doctors at **British** clinics agreeing to terminate foetuses because they were either **male** or **female**.

20. The **Royal** College of Paediatricians and Child Health is the **latest** medical organisation to call on the Government to **withdraw** the Health and Social Care **Bill**.
21. The Royal Colleges represent **GPs**, **nurses**, **midwives** and radiologists.
22. They have already made **similar** claims.
23. Ministers **insist** the bill will **improve** patient care in England.