



BBC RADIO 4 NEWS
Tuesday, 24th January 2012
10.00am

ELEMENTARY: FILL IN THE MISSING WORDS

1. The Government's _____ debt has reached £1 trillion for the _____ time.
2. That's equivalent to _____% of the country's annual economic _____.
3. Borrowing in December _____ to £13.7 million.
4. This is £2 billion _____ than the December 2010 figure.

5. The _____ company which owns the Coryton oil refinery in Essex has _____ for bankruptcy.
6. Coryton provides _____% of the fuel supplies to _____ - _____ England.
7. One thousand _____ in the UK are at risk.

8. The next story is about an _____ exploration company based in _____.
9. The company has withdrawn a plan to make a £_____ million special payment to its _____.
10. This is due to _____ from shareholders.
11. Yesterday the Government _____ proposals to reduce excessive boardroom _____ awards.
12. Douglas Fraser is BBC Scotland's _____ editor.
13. Sir _____ Gammell is the founder of Cairn _____.
14. He helped it make a hugely profitable oil discovery in the _____.
15. The company is holding a special shareholders meeting _____.
16. The company has made nearly £2 billion of _____ from _____ on most of its stake there.
17. Advisors to shareholders flagged _____ concerns about the special payments the board was proposing.
18. Now the company has _____ the proposal.
19. The Government is seeking to reform executive pay with more clarity and _____ oversight by shareholders.

20. The _____ secretary is Andrew Lansley.
21. A committee of MPs said _____ have been using 'short-term salami slicing' to try to _____ efficiency savings.
22. Mr Lansley said the report was _____ of _____ and unfair to the _____.

23. At least _____ people have died in car bombings in the Iraqi _____, Baghdad.
24. More than _____ people were injured.
25. There is tension in Iraq between the Shia-led government and the main Sunni-backed political _____.

26. Gulf States are withdrawing _____ monitors from the Arab League mission to _____.
27. Saudi Arabia has already _____.



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ELEMENTARY: ANSWERS

1. The Government's **overall** debt has reached £1 trillion for the **first** time.
2. That's equivalent to **64%** of the country's annual economic **output**.
3. Borrowing in December **fell** to £13.7 million.
4. This is £2 billion **less** than the December 2010 figure.

5. The **Swiss** company which owns the Coryton oil refinery in Essex has **filed** for bankruptcy.
6. Coryton provides **20%** of the fuel supplies to **south-east** England.
7. One thousand **jobs** in the UK are at risk.

8. The next story is about an **oil** exploration company based in **Edinburgh**.
9. The company has withdrawn a plan to make a **£2½** million special payment to its **chairman**.
10. This is due to **pressure** from shareholders.
11. Yesterday the Government **outlined** proposals to reduce excessive boardroom **pay** awards.
12. Douglas Fraser is BBC Scotland's **business** editor.
13. Sir **Bill** Gammell is the founder of Cairn **Energy**.
14. He helped it make a hugely profitable oil discovery in the **Indian desert**.
15. The company is holding a special shareholders meeting **next week**.
16. The company has made nearly £2 billion of **profit** from **selling** on most of its stake there.
17. Advisors to shareholders flagged **up** concerns about the special payments the board was proposing.
18. Now the company has **withdrawn** the proposal.
19. The Government is seeking to reform executive pay with more clarity and **better** oversight by shareholders.

20. The **health** secretary is Andrew Lansley.
21. A committee of MPs said **hospitals** have been using 'short-term salami slicing' to try to **find** efficiency savings.
22. Mr Lansley said the report was **out** of **date** and unfair to the **NHS**.

23. At least **13** people have died in car bombings in the Iraqi **capital**, Baghdad.
24. More than **70** people were injured.
25. There is tension in Iraq between the Shia-led government and the main Sunni-backed political **group**.

26. Gulf States are withdrawing **their** monitors from the Arab League mission to **Syria**.
27. Saudi Arabia has already **pulled out**.



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INTERMEDIATE: QUESTIONS

1. How much has the Government's overall debt reached for the first time?
2. What is this equivalent to, in terms of Britain's annual economic output?
3. What fell in December by more than expected?
4. What was the figure in December 2011?
5. What was the December 2010 figure?

6. Where are the headquarters of the firm which owns the Coryton oil refinery in Essex?
7. What has the company done?
8. How much of the fuel supplies to south-east England does Coryton supply?
9. How many people are at risk of losing their jobs?

10. Describe the company which has withdrawn a plan to make a special payment to its chairman:
11. How much money was it proposing to give the chairman?
12. Who are against the special payment?
13. When did the Westminster government outline proposals to curtail excessive pay awards?
14. Where did Cairn Energy make a hugely profitable oil find?
15. How much money has the company made from selling on most of its stake in the oil field there?
16. What has Cairn Energy done with the pay proposal?
17. What type of pay is the Government trying to reform?

18. Who is Andrew Lansley?
19. What are 'resorting to short-term salami-slicing' as they try to find efficiency savings, according to a House of Commons committee?
20. What did Mr Lansley say about the report from the Commons Health Select Committee?

21. How many people have died in a series of car bombings in Iraq?
22. How many people were injured?
23. Is the Iraqi government mainly Sunni or Shia?

24. Which country are Gulf states withdrawing Arab League monitors from?
25. Which country has already withdrawn its monitors?



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INTERMEDIATE: ANSWERS

1. How much has the Government's overall debt reached for the first time? **£1 billion**
2. What is this equivalent to, in terms of Britain's annual economic output? **64%**
3. What fell in December by more than expected? **borrowing**
4. What was the figure in December 2011? **£13.7 billion**
5. What was the December 2010 figure? **£11.7 billion** ('Two billion pounds less than a year earlier.')

6. Where are the headquarters of the firm which owns the Coryton oil refinery in Essex? **in Switzerland** ('The Swiss company which owns the Coryton oil refinery in Essex...')
7. What has the company done? **It has filed for bankruptcy.**
8. How much of the fuel supplies to south-east England does Coryton supply? **20%**
9. How many people are at risk of losing their jobs? **1,000**

10. Describe the company which has withdrawn a plan to make a special payment to its chairman: **It's an oil exploration company based in Edinburgh.**
11. How much money was it proposing to give the chairman? **£2½ million**
12. Who are against the special payment? **shareholders**
13. When did the Westminster government outline proposals to curtail excessive pay awards? **yesterday**
14. Where did Cairn Energy make a hugely profitable oil find? **in the Indian desert**
15. How much money has the company made from selling on most of its stake in the oil field there? **more than £2 billion**
16. What has Cairn Energy done with the pay proposal? **It has withdrawn it.**
17. What type of pay is the Government trying to reform? **executive pay**

18. Who is Andrew Lansley? **He's the health secretary.**
19. What are 'resorting to short-term salami-slicing' as they try to find efficiency savings, according to a House of Commons committee? **hospitals**
20. What did Mr Lansley say about the report from the Commons Health Select Committee? **He said it was out of date and unfair to the NHS.**

21. How many people have died in a series of car bombings in Iraq? **at least 13**
22. How many people were injured? **more than 70**
23. Is the Iraqi government mainly Sunni or Shia? **Shia** ('the Shia-led government')

24. Which country are Gulf states withdrawing Arab League monitors from? **Syria**
25. Which country has already withdrawn its monitors? **Saudi Arabia**



BBC RADIO 4 NEWS
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ADVANCED: TRUE/FALSE

1. The Government's energy debt has reached £1 trillion for the first time.
2. That's equivalent to nearly two-thirds of Britain's annual economic output.
3. Borrowing between December 2010 and December 2011 fell by £2 billion.

4. The Coryton oil refinery in Essex is owned by a Swedish company.
5. The company has filed for bankruptcy.
6. Coryton provides a fifth of the oil supplies to south-east England.
7. Thousands of people could lose their jobs.

8. The next story is about an oil exploration company based in Scotland.
9. The company has withdrawn its plan to pay its chairman an annual salary of £2½ billion.
10. Shareholders were against the proposal.
11. Yesterday the Westminster government outlined proposals to curtail successive boardroom pay awards.
12. Sir Bill Gammell joined the company as a young man.
13. He is credited with helping the company to make a hugely profitable oil find in the Indian desert.
14. The company has made more than £2 billion from leasing out most of its stake there.
15. The Government wants to reform executive pay with more clarity and better hindsight by shareholders.

16. A committee of MPs has said hospitals are making efficiency savings by short-term salami slicing.
17. The health secretary, Ann Lansley, has rejected these claims.
18. He said the Commons Health Select Committee report did not reflect the current situation and it wasn't fair to the NHS.

19. At least 13 people have lost their lives in a series of car bombings in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad.
20. More than 17 people were injured.
21. There is tension in Iraq between the Shia-led government and the main Sunni-backed political groups.

22. Gulf states are going to recall their monitors from the Arab League mission to Syria.
23. Saudi Arabia is no longer taking part in the monitoring.



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ADVANCED: ANSWERS

1. The Government's energy debt has reached £1 trillion for the first time. (F 'The Government's overall debt...')
2. That's equivalent to nearly two-thirds of Britain's annual economic output. (T 'That's equivalent to 64% of Britain's annual economic output.')
3. Borrowing between December 2010 and December 2011 fell by £2 billion. (T)
4. The Coryton oil refinery in Essex is owned by a Swedish company. (F 'The Swiss company...')
5. The company has filed for bankruptcy. (T)
6. Coryton provides a fifth of the oil supplies to south-east England. (T 20% = a fifth)
7. Thousands of people could lose their jobs. (F 'A thousand jobs in the UK are at risk.')
8. The next story is about an oil exploration company based in Scotland. (F an oil exploration company)
9. The company has withdrawn its plan to pay its chairman an annual salary of £2½ billion. (F The figure of £2½ billion was 'a special payment'.)
10. Shareholders were against the proposal. (T The proposal was withdrawn 'after pressure from shareholders'.)
11. Yesterday the Westminster government outlined proposals to curtail successive boardroom pay awards. (F 'excessive boardroom pay awards')
12. Sir Bill Gammell joined the company as a young man. (F 'Sir Bill Gammell, founder of Cairn Energy...')
13. He is credited with helping the company to make a hugely profitable oil find in the Indian desert. (F 'in the Indian desert'))
14. The company has made more than £2 billion from leasing out most of its stake there. (F 'profits from selling on most of its stake there')
15. The Government wants to reform executive pay with more clarity and better hindsight by shareholders. (F 'and better oversight by shareholders')
16. A committee of MPs has said hospitals are making efficiency savings by short-term salami slicing. (T)
17. The health secretary, Ann Lansley, has rejected these claims. (F Andrew Lansley)
18. He said the Commons Health Select Committee report did not reflect the current situation and it wasn't fair to the NHS. (T He said it was out of date and unfair to the NHS.)
19. At least 13 people have lost their lives in a series of car bombings in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad. (T)
20. More than 17 people were injured. (F More than 70 people were wounded.)
21. There is tension in Iraq between the Shia-led government and the main Sunni-backed political groups. (F 'group', not groups)
22. Gulf states are going to recall their monitors from the Arab League mission to Syria. (T 'they're withdrawing...')
23. Saudi Arabia is no longer taking part in the monitoring. (T 'Saudi Arabia has already pulled out.')