

www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-use ESL/EFL Lessons by Sean Banville

"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"

The Breaking News English.com Resource Book

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html>

WikiLeaks founder hiding from "superpower"

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1012/101204-julian_assange.html

Contents

The Article	2
Warm-ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading / Listening	7
Student Survey	8
Discussion	9
Language Work	10
Writing	11
Homework	12
Answers	13

4th December, 2010

THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1012/101204-julian_assange.html

The WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is in hiding. He told reporters he was taking steps to protect himself from a "superpower". He made a statement to Britain's Guardian newspaper from a secret location on December the 3rd, saying: "The threats against our lives are a matter of public record. However, we are taking the appropriate precautions to the degree that we are able when dealing with a superpower." He proclaimed that anyone threatening his life should be charged with incitement to murder. Professor Tom Flanagan, a former adviser to Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, suggested assassinating Mr Assange. Flanagan said Barack Obama should "put out a contract" to rid the world of Mr Assange.

Julian Assange is also wanted by Swedish authorities for alleged sex crimes. Earlier this year two female Swedish WikiLeaks volunteers accused Assange of sexual misconduct. Swedish prosecutors opened, dropped, then re-opened the investigation into the allegations. They have not formally charged him with any crime. Assange's lawyer Bjorn Hurtig said "someone is pushing Sweden to push Interpol to make this arrest warrant public". Ex-Pentagon official KT McFarland called for Assange to face terror charges. She told Fox News: "He's waging cyber-war on the United States and the global world order. Mr Assange and his fellow hackers are terrorists and should be prosecuted as such."

WARM-UPS

1. WIKILEAKS: Walk around the class and talk to other students about WikiLeaks. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

WikiLeaks / superpower / secret locations / precautions / incitement / assassinating / sex crimes / investigation / lawyer / arrest warrant / waging cyber-war / hackers

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. IN HIDING: Problems hiding from a superpower? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

Problems	How to overcome it	Dangers
Using the Internet		
Food		
Money		
Trusting people		
A place to hide		
An escape plan		

4. LEAKS: Students A **strongly** believe Julian Assange was right to leak the documents; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. JULIAN ASSANGE: What is he? Rank these words and share your rankings with your partner. Put the ones you most agree with at the top. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- journalist
- hero
- terrorist
- traitor
- brave
- stupid
- honest
- criminal

6. SUPERPOWER: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'superpower'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1012/101204-julian_assange.html

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The article says Mr Assange is hiding from Russia, China and the USA. T / F
- b. Mr Assange listed the precautions he has made to stay safe. T / F
- c. He suggested anyone who threatened to kill him should be arrested. T / F
- d. An ex-aide to Canada's PM told President Obama to kill Mr Assange. T / F
- e. Julian Assange is wanted in Sweden for questioning about sex crimes. T / F
- f. Swedish authorities have not officially said Assange committed a crime. T / F
- g. Assange's lawyer is pushing for an Interpol arrest warrant to be made. T / F
- h. An ex-Pentagon worker wants Assange prosecuted as a computer spy. T / F

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. founder | a. wrongdoing |
| 2. steps | b. safeguards |
| 3. appropriate | c. pressuring |
| 4. precautions | d. originator |
| 5. assassinating | e. taken to court |
| 6. alleged | f. actions |
| 7. misconduct | g. murdering |
| 8. pushing | h. carrying on |
| 9. waging | i. suitable |
| 10. prosecuted | j. claimed |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. taking steps | a. a contract |
| 2. a matter of public | b. warrant |
| 3. we are taking the appropriate | c. record |
| 4. charged with incitement | d. by Swedish authorities |
| 5. put out | e. war on the United States |
| 6. Assange is also wanted | f. to protect himself |
| 7. re-opened the | g. to murder |
| 8. They have not formally | h. precautions |
| 9. arrest | i. charged him |
| 10. waging cyber- | j. investigation |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1012/101204-julian_assange.html

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is in _____. He told reporters he was taking _____ to protect himself from a "superpower". He made a statement to Britain's Guardian newspaper from a secret _____ on December the 3rd, saying: "The threats against our lives are a matter of public record. However, we are _____ the appropriate precautions to the degree that we are able when _____ with a superpower." He proclaimed that anyone threatening his life should be charged with incitement to murder. Professor Tom Flanagan, a _____ adviser to Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, _____ assassinating Mr Assange. Flanagan said Barack Obama should "put out a contract" to _____ the world of Mr Assange.

former
location
rid
hiding
dealing
suggested
steps
taking

Julian Assange is also _____ by Swedish authorities for alleged sex crimes. Earlier this year two female Swedish WikiLeaks volunteers accused Assange of sexual _____. Swedish prosecutors opened, _____, then re-opened the investigation into the allegations. They have not _____ charged him with any crime. Assange's lawyer Bjorn Hurtig said "someone is pushing Sweden to _____ Interpol to make this arrest warrant public". Ex-Pentagon official KT McFarland called for Assange to face terror charges. She told Fox News: "He's _____ cyber-war on the United States and the global world order. Mr Assange and his _____ hackers are terrorists and should be prosecuted as _____."

waging
dropped
push
wanted
such
misconduct
fellow
formally

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1012/101204-julian_assange.html

The WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is in hiding. He told reporters he was _____ himself from a “superpower”. He made a statement to Britain’s Guardian newspaper from a secret location on December the 3rd, saying: "The _____ lives are a matter of public record. However, we are taking the appropriate precautions to the degree that we _____ with a superpower." He proclaimed that anyone _____ be charged with incitement to murder. Professor Tom Flanagan, a former adviser to Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, _____ Mr Assange. Flanagan said Barack Obama should “_____” to rid the world of Mr Assange.

Julian Assange is also wanted by Swedish _____ sex crimes. Earlier this year two female Swedish WikiLeaks volunteers accused Assange of sexual misconduct. Swedish _____, then re-opened the investigation into the allegations. They have not formally _____ crime. Assange’s lawyer Bjorn Hurtig said “someone is pushing Sweden _____ make this arrest warrant public”. Ex-Pentagon official KT McFarland called for Assange to face terror charges. She told Fox News: “_____ on the United States and the global world order. Mr Assange and his fellow hackers are terrorists and should _____.”

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1012/101204-julian_assange.html

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'secret' and 'location'.

secret	location
---------------	-----------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• steps• secret• matter• dealing• charged• rid	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• crimes• dropped• formally• pushing• face• such
---	---

STUDENT WIKILEAKS SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1012/101204-julian_assange.html

Write five GOOD questions about WikiLeaks in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WIKILEAKS / JULIAN ASSANGE DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'WikiLeaks'?
- c) How do you think Julian Assange is feeling right now?
- d) What do you think of Julian Assange?
- e) Do you think WikiLeaks has changed the world in any way?
- f) What do you think it'd be like to have to hide from a superpower?
- g) What do you think of Professor Tom Flanagan's suggestion to assassinate Mr Assange?
- h) Which of the leaks has most surprised or worried you?
- i) Will WikiLeaks change the way diplomats communicate from now?
- j) Has Julian Assange made the world a better or more dangerous place?

WikiLeaks founder hiding from "superpower" – 4th December, 2010
More free lessons at www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com

WIKILEAKS / JULIAN ASSANGE DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) What three adjectives would you use to describe Julian Assange and why?
- c) Should Assange go back to Sweden?
- d) What do you think would happen to him if he went to the USA?
- e) Have any of the leaks caused any great problems between countries?
- f) Is Mr Assange waging cyber-war on America, as KT McFarland said?
- g) Is Mr Assange a terrorist, as KT McFarland called him?
- h) Where do you think Julian Assange will be this time next year?
- i) What have the leaks said about your country's leaders or policies?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Julian Assange?

LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1012/101204-julian_assange.html

The WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is (1) _____ hiding. He told reporters he was taking steps to protect himself from a "superpower". He made a statement to Britain's Guardian newspaper from a secret location on December the 3rd, saying: "The threats against our lives are a (2) _____ of public record. However, we are taking the appropriate precautions to the (3) _____ that we are able when (4) _____ with a superpower." He proclaimed that anyone threatening his life should be charged (5) _____ incitement to murder. Professor Tom Flanagan, a former adviser to Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, suggested assassinating Mr Assange. Flanagan said Barack Obama should "put out a contract" to (6) _____ the world of Mr Assange.

Julian Assange is also wanted by Swedish authorities (7) _____ alleged sex crimes. Earlier this year two female Swedish WikiLeaks volunteers accused Assange of sexual misconduct. Swedish prosecutors opened, (8) _____, then re-opened the investigation into the allegations. They have not (9) _____ charged him with any crime. Assange's lawyer Bjorn Hurtig said "someone is pushing Sweden to push Interpol to make this arrest (10) _____ public". Ex-Pentagon official KT McFarland called for Assange to face terror charges. She told Fox News: "He's (11) _____ cyber-war on the United States and the global world order. Mr Assange and his fellow hackers are terrorists and should be prosecuted as (12) _____."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1. | (a) on | (b) at | (c) by | (d) in |
| 2. | (a) mattered | (b) matters | (c) matter | (d) matter-of-fact |
| 3. | (a) diploma | (b) degree | (c) award | (d) certificate |
| 4. | (a) dealing | (b) deals | (c) dealt | (d) dealer |
| 5. | (a) at | (b) on | (c) with | (d) to |
| 6. | (a) lid | (b) bid | (c) hid | (d) rid |
| 7. | (a) by | (b) for | (c) from | (d) with |
| 8. | (a) dropped | (b) fell | (c) let go | (d) threw down |
| 9. | (a) formality | (b) formally | (c) formal | (d) formalize |
| 10. | (a) warren | (b) warrior | (c) warrant | (d) warring |
| 11. | (a) waging | (b) paging | (c) caging | (d) raging |
| 12. | (a) so | (b) some | (c) seem | (d) such |

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 out more about Julian Assange and WikiLeaks. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. WIKILEAKS: Make a poster about WikiLeaks. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. IN HIDING: Write a magazine article about Julian Assange. Include imaginary interviews with him and someone who thinks he should be prosecuted.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. LETTER: Write a letter to Julian Assange. Ask him three questions about WikiLeaks. Give him three of your opinions about it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F b. F c. T d. T e. T f. T g. F h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. founder | a. originator |
| 2. steps | b. actions |
| 3. appropriate | c. suitable |
| 4. precautions | d. safeguards |
| 5. assassinating | e. murdering |
| 6. alleged | f. claimed |
| 7. misconduct | g. wrongdoing |
| 8. pushing | h. pressuring |
| 9. waging | i. carrying on |
| 10. prosecuted | j. taken to court |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. taking steps | a. to protect himself |
| 2. a matter of public | b. record |
| 3. we are taking the appropriate | c. precautions |
| 4. charged with incitement | d. to murder |
| 5. put out | e. a contract |
| 6. Assange is also wanted | f. by Swedish authorities |
| 7. re-opened the | g. investigation |
| 8. They have not formally | h. charged him |
| 9. arrest | i. warrant |
| 10. waging cyber- | j. war on the United States |

GAP FILL:

WikiLeaks founder hiding from "superpower"

The WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is in **hiding**. He told reporters he was taking **steps** to protect himself from a "superpower". He made a statement to Britain's Guardian newspaper from a secret **location** on December the 3rd, saying: "The threats against our lives are a matter of public record. However, we are **taking** the appropriate precautions to the degree that we are able when **dealing** with a superpower." He proclaimed that anyone threatening his life should be charged with incitement to murder. Professor Tom Flanagan, a **former** adviser to Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, **suggested** assassinating Mr Assange. Flanagan said Barack Obama should "put out a contract" to **rid** the world of Mr Assange.

Julian Assange is also **wanted** by Swedish authorities for alleged sex crimes. Earlier this year two female Swedish WikiLeaks volunteers accused Assange of sexual **misconduct**. Swedish prosecutors opened, **dropped**, then re-opened the investigation into the allegations. They have not **formally** charged him with any crime. Assange's lawyer Bjorn Hurtig said "someone is pushing Sweden to **push** Interpol to make this arrest warrant public". Ex-Pentagon official KT McFarland called for Assange to face terror charges. She told Fox News: "He's **waging** cyber-war on the United States and the global world order. Mr Assange and his **fellow** hackers are terrorists and should be prosecuted as **such**."

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d 2 - c 3 - b 4 - a 5 - c 6 - d 7 - b 8 - a 9 - b 10 - c 11 - a 12 - d