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Brazil overtakes UK economy

27th December, 2011

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/111227/111227-brazil_economy.html

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THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/111227/111227-brazil_economy.html

Brazil has overtaken Britain to become the world's sixth largest economy. A study from the UK's Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) shows that the Brazilian economy is one of the world's fastest growing and that its strong economic performance will continue. Its GDP for this year will be US\$2.4 trillion. Only the United States, China, Japan, Germany and France have larger economies. Brazilian finance minister Guido Mantega said his country had outperformed Britain because it fared better during the world financial crisis. He also said Brazil's economy was strengthening. Mantega predicted it would grow between 4 to 5 per cent in 2012. This is the kind of growth his British counterpart can only dream of; Britain's economy is currently in danger of dipping back into negative growth and recession.

The boss of the CEBR, Douglas McWilliams, told BBC Radio that Brazil overtaking the UK was part of a growing trend that will see the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China) emerge as the most important economies. He predicts they will all be in the top six of the World Economic League Table by 2020, joining the US and Japan. McWilliams said: "I think it's part of the big economic change, where not only are we seeing a shift from the west to the east, but we're also seeing that countries that produce vital commodities, food and energy and things like that, are doing very well and they're gradually climbing up the economic league table." Mr Mantega said: "European countries have much higher per capita income than we do. We'll need 10, 20 years to reach European standards."

WARM-UPS

1. BRAZIL: Walk around the class and talk to other students about Brazil. 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.

overtaken / study / economic performance / trillion / finance minister / counterpart / growing trend / BRIC countries / predicts / league table / shift / vital commodities

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

3. ECONOMIES: What do you know about these? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

Countries	Economic strengths	Problems
Brazil		
US		
China		
India		
Russia		
Libya		

4. NUMBER ONE: Students A **strongly** believe the USA will always be the world's number one economy; Students B **strongly** believe not. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. GROWTH: What's most important? Rank them and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- skilled workforce
- low interest rates
- strong currency
- god transport system
- political stability
- wealthy middle class
- trade surplus
- stable banks

6. ECONOMY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'economy'. 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/111227/111227-brazil_economy.html

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

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. Brazil is now the world's fifth largest economy. | T / F |
| b. Brazil is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. | T / F |
| c. Brazil's GDP this year will be over two trillion American dollars. | T / F |
| d. Brazil's economy is predicted to grow by more than 5% next year. | T / F |
| e. Brazil is a key maker of bricks. | T / F |
| f. A world economist said Brazil would be in the top 6 economies in 2020. | T / F |
| g. The economist said global economic power is shifting westwards. | T / F |
| h. Brazil's finance minister said Europeans have higher per capita income. | T / F |

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

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1. overtaken | a. indicates |
| 2. study | b. tendency |
| 3. shows | c. get to |
| 4. counterpart | d. report |
| 5. predicted | e. develop |
| 6. trend | f. surpassed |
| 7. emerge | g. change |
| 8. shift | h. forecast |
| 9. vital | i. peer |
| 10. reach | j. essential |

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. the world's sixth | a. will continue |
| 2. its strong economic performance | b. better |
| 3. it fared | c. league table |
| 4. his British | d. largest economy |
| 5. dipping back into | e. west to the east |
| 6. part of a growing | f. income |
| 7. a shift from the | g. negative growth |
| 8. gradually climbing up the economic | h. standards |
| 9. per capita | i. counterpart |
| 10. 20 years to reach European | j. trend |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/111227/111227-brazil_economy.html

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

Brazil has (1) _____ Britain to become the world's sixth largest economy. A study from the UK's Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) (2) _____ that the Brazilian economy is one of the world's fastest growing and that its strong economic performance will (3) _____. Its GDP for this year will be US\$2.4 trillion. Only the United States, China, Japan, Germany and France have larger economies. Brazilian (4) _____ minister Guido Mantega said his country had outperformed Britain because it (5) _____ better during the world financial crisis. He also said Brazil's economy was strengthening. Mantega (6) _____ it would grow between 4 to 5 per cent in 2012. This is the kind of (7) _____ his British counterpart can only dream of; Britain's economy is currently in danger of (8) _____ back into negative growth and recession.

fared
continue
growth
overtaken
dipping
shows
finance
predicted

The boss of the CEBR, Douglas McWilliams, told BBC Radio that Brazil overtaking the UK was part of a growing (9) _____ that will see the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China) (10) _____ as the most important economies. He predicts they will all be in the top six of the World Economic League Table by 2020, (11) _____ the US and Japan. McWilliams said: "I think it's part of the big economic change, where not only are we seeing a (12) _____ from the west to the east, but we're also seeing that countries that produce (13) _____ commodities, food and energy and things like that, are doing very well and they're (14) _____ climbing up the economic league table." Mr Mantega said: "European countries have much higher per capita (15) _____ than we do. We'll need 10, 20 years to reach European (16) _____."

emerge
standards
shift
trend
gradually
joining
income
vital

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/111227/111227-brazil_economy.html

Brazil has overtaken Britain _____ sixth largest economy. A study from the UK's Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) shows that the Brazilian economy is one of the world's fastest growing and that its strong _____ will continue. Its GDP for this year will be US\$2.4 trillion. Only the United States, China, Japan, Germany and France have larger economies. Brazilian finance minister Guido Mantega said his country had outperformed Britain because _____ during the _____. He also said Brazil's economy was strengthening. Mantega predicted it would grow between 4 to 5 per cent in 2012. This is the kind of growth his British counterpart _____; Britain's economy is currently in danger of _____ negative growth and recession.

The boss of the CEBR, Douglas McWilliams, told BBC Radio that Brazil overtaking the UK was part of _____ that will see the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China) emerge as the most important economies. He _____ all be in the top six of the World Economic League Table by 2020, joining the US and Japan. McWilliams said: "I think it's part of the big economic change, where not only are we _____ from the west to the east, but we're also seeing that countries that produce _____, food and energy and things like that, are doing very well and they're _____ the economic league table." Mr Mantega said: "European countries have much higher _____ than we do. We'll need 10, 20 years to reach European standards."

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AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/111227/111227-brazil_economy.html

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

economics	business

- 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">• become• shows• only• during• grow• danger	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• growing• emerge• produce• climbing• income• reach
--	--

BRAZIL SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/111227/111227-brazil_economy.html

Write five GOOD questions about Brazil 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.

BRAZIL 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 'Brazil'?
- c) What do you know about Brazil's economy?
- d) How interested are you in world economics?
- e) What's your country's economy like?
- f) How do you think Brazil came to be the world's sixth largest economy?
- g) What does a country have to do for its economy to grow?
- h) What's wrong with Britain's economy?

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BRAZIL DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) After the BRIC countries, where else will we see strong economies emerge?
- c) Do you think the North African economies will now grow?
- d) What changes would you like your country to make to its economy?
- e) Why are we seeing a shift from west to east?
- f) Will all the world economies be strong one day?
- g) What will the world economy be like 100 years from now?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Brazilian finance minister Guido Mantega?

LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/111227/111227-brazil_economy.html

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The boss of the CEBR, Douglas McWilliams, told BBC Radio that Brazil overtaking the UK was part of a growing (7) ____ that will see the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China) emerge (8) ____ the most important economies. He predicts they will all be in the top six of the World Economic League Table by 2020, (9) ____ the US and Japan. McWilliams said: "I think it's part of the big economic change, where not only are we (10) ____ a shift from the west to the east, but we're also seeing that countries that produce vital commodities, food and energy and things like that, are doing very well and they're (11) ____ climbing up the economic league table." Mr Mantega said: "European countries have much higher per capita income than we do. We'll need 10, 20 years to (12) ____ European standards."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) overtaken | (b) overtakes | (c) overtake | (d) overtaking |
| 2. | (a) show | (b) routine | (c) performance | (d) piece |
| 3. | (a) cash | (b) money | (c) invest | (d) finance |
| 4. | (a) dared | (b) fared | (c) pared | (d) bared |
| 5. | (a) develop | (b) strong | (c) growing | (d) growth |
| 6. | (a) sipping | (b) nipping | (c) dipping | (d) ripping |
| 7. | (a) brand | (b) trend | (c) bland | (d) tread |
| 8. | (a) as | (b) is | (c) has | (d) was |
| 9. | (a) joining | (b) joint | (c) joiner | (d) joins |
| 10. | (a) seen | (b) saw | (c) seeing | (d) sees |
| 11. | (a) normally | (b) habitually | (c) globally | (d) gradually |
| 12. | (a) breach | (b) reach | (c) beach | (d) broach |

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WRITING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/111227/111227-brazil_economy.html

Write about **Brazil** for 10 minutes. Correct your partner's paper.

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 the BRIC economies (Brazil, Russia, India and China). Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. BRAZIL: Make a poster about Brazil's economy. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. NUMBER SIX: Write a magazine article about Brazil's economy. Include imaginary interviews with Brazilians.

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 an economic expert. Ask him/her three questions about Brazil's economic rise. Give him/her three of your opinions. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

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

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1. overtaken | a. surpassed |
| 2. study | b. report |
| 3. shows | c. indicates |
| 4. counterpart | d. peer |
| 5. predicted | e. forecast |
| 6. trend | f. tendency |
| 7. emerge | g. develop |
| 8. shift | h. change |
| 9. vital | i. essential |
| 10. reach | j. get to |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. the world's sixth | a. largest economy |
| 2. its strong economic performance | b. will continue |
| 3. it fared | c. better |
| 4. his British | d. counterpart |
| 5. dipping back into | e. negative growth |
| 6. part of a growing | f. trend |
| 7. a shift from the | g. west to the east |
| 8. gradually climbing up the economic | h. league table |
| 9. per capita | i. income |
| 10. 20 years to reach European | j. standards |

GAP FILL:

Brazil overtakes UK economy

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The boss of the CEBR, Douglas McWilliams, told BBC Radio that Brazil overtaking the UK was part of a growing (9) **trend** that will see the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China) (10) **emerge** as the most important economies. He predicts they will all be in the top six of the World Economic League Table by 2020, (11) **joining** the US and Japan. McWilliams said: "I think it's part of the big economic change, where not only are we seeing a (12) **shift** from the west to the east, but we're also seeing that countries that produce (13) **vital** commodities, food and energy and things like that, are doing very well and they're (14) **gradually** climbing up the economic league table." Mr Mantega said: "European countries have much higher per capita (15) **income** than we do. We'll need 10, 20 years to reach European (16) **standards**."

LANGUAGE WORK

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

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