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## **Level 5**

# **Hungary freezes Internet tax plan**

**3rd November, 2014**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1411/141103-internet-tax-5.html>

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**Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1411/141103-internet-tax-5.html>

A proposed Internet tax in Hungary has been put on hold. Hungary's government was going to impose a tax on Internet traffic. It faced huge opposition from the public and businesses. The government announced it had frozen the plans following huge street protests in the capital Budapest. It also took heed of warnings from the European Union that the tax would be a mistake. The climb-down was broadcast on radio on Friday. Hungary's leader said: "If the people not only dislike something but also consider it unreasonable, then it should not be done."

Hungary's U-turn is not yet a victory for the people. The idea has not been scrapped altogether. There will be consultations in January next year to investigate how to generate tax revenue from the Internet. The government said it would have to be different in nature to the one it just put on hold. That one involved a 60-cent tax on every gigabyte of data consumed. Critics were worried this would limit freedom of expression and hurt online companies. Citizens will continue to campaign for a tax-free Internet. Their Facebook page already has more than 250,000 Likes.

Sources: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/31/us-hungary-internet-tax-idUSKBN0IK0MM20141031?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews>  
<http://www.computerworld.com/article/2841957/government/hungary-ditches-internet-tax-plans-after-protests.html>  
<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/10/31/hungary-internettax.html>

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1411/141103-internet-tax-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. put on                       | a. of warnings      |
| 2. impose a tax on              | b. be a mistake     |
| 3. huge opposition              | c. hold             |
| 4. huge street                  | d. unreasonable     |
| 5. took heed                    | e. from the public  |
| 6. the tax would                | f. on radio         |
| 7. The climb-down was broadcast | g. Internet traffic |
| 8. consider it                  | h. protests         |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                    |                        |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. not yet a victory               | a. of data consumed    |
| 2. The idea has not been           | b. of expression       |
| 3. investigate how to generate     | c. worried             |
| 4. it would have to be different   | d. to campaign         |
| 5. a 60-cent tax on every gigabyte | e. for the people      |
| 6. Critics were                    | f. in nature           |
| 7. limit freedom                   | g. scrapped altogether |
| 8. Citizens will continue          | h. tax revenue         |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1411/141103-internet-tax-5.html>

A proposed Internet tax in Hungary (1) \_\_\_\_\_. Hungary's government was going (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Internet traffic. It faced huge opposition from the public and businesses. The government announced it had frozen the plans following (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in the capital Budapest. It also (4) \_\_\_\_\_ from the European Union that the tax would be a mistake. The (5) \_\_\_\_\_ broadcast on radio on Friday. Hungary's leader said: "If the people not only dislike something but also (6) \_\_\_\_\_, then it should not be done." Hungary's U-turn is (7) \_\_\_\_\_ for the people. The idea has not been scrapped altogether. There (8) \_\_\_\_\_ in January next year to investigate how to generate tax revenue from the Internet. The government said it would have to be (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to the one it just put on hold. That one involved a 60-cent (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of data consumed. Critics were worried this (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of expression and (12) \_\_\_\_\_. Citizens will continue to campaign for a tax-free Internet. Their Facebook page already has more than 250,000 Likes.

# INTERNET TAXES SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1411/141103-internet-tax-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Internet taxes 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.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

