

## Indonesia leader flies economy

23rd November, 2014



Indonesian President Joko Widodo has adopted a spirit of austerity by flying economy class. People around the world have had to tighten their belts because of

government cuts and higher taxes. Indonesia's leader has set an example to other world leaders that presidents are not exempt from making personal cutbacks. He and his wife flew economy class last week to Singapore to attend his son's high-school graduation ceremony. Mr Widodo opted not to use the official presidential airplane because his trip was of a personal nature. The couple paid for the air tickets themselves but the taxpayers footed the bill for the security officers who were on the flight to protect the president.

The Widodos are becoming known for their down-to-earth living. They have led a very modest lifestyle since he became leader of the world's fourth most populous country last month. His wife Iriana is never seen in designer dresses and does a lot of her shopping in a Jakarta clothing market. There was mixed reaction on social media in Indonesia to the couple flying economy, with some believing it was little more than a publicity stunt. One man tweeted: "Living a fake life is difficult: Widodo went to Singapore flying economy but slept in an expensive hotel." A woman praised Widodo, tweeting: "Widodo sets a good example by flying economy. Hopefully other officials can follow in his footsteps."

Sources: *Malaysia Chronicle / Jakarta Post / Daily Mail*

## Writing

All leaders should set an example and fly economy class. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*austerity / economy class / set an example / world leaders / cutbacks / graduation / lifestyle / modest / populous / designer dresses / publicity / praised / follow / footsteps*

## True / False

- The article says Indonesia's president is issuing austerity measures. T / F
- Indonesia's leader told other world leaders to fly economy. T / F
- The leader flew economy while his wife flew business class. T / F
- The leader paid for his own ticket. T / F
- The leader and his wife are known for their more simple lifestyle. T / F
- The leader's wife often appears in public in designer dresses. T / F
- A man tweeted that the leader flew economy to get more publicity. T / F
- A woman tweeted to suggest other officials also fly economy. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. spirit                   | a. fraudulent      |
| 2. tighten their belts      | b. chosen          |
| 3. exempt                   | c. simple          |
| 4. opted                    | d. reduce spending |
| 5. footed the bill          | e. commended       |
| 6. down to earth            | f. attitude        |
| 7. reaction                 | g. do the same     |
| 8. fake                     | h. response        |
| 9. praised                  | i. paid            |
| 10. follow in his footsteps | j. free from       |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think of the first lady shopping in a clothes market?
- Do you think the economy class flight was a publicity stunt?
- Why are people always skeptical when others do good things?
- Is it OK for Widodo to have stayed in an expensive hotel?
- What do you do to set a good example to others?
- How much should world leaders be paid?
- How would the world change if other leaders followed in Widodo's footsteps?
- What questions would you like to ask President Widodo?

# BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

- |                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. adopted a spirit             | a. stunt            |
| 2. tighten                      | b. populous country |
| 3. set                          | c. an example       |
| 4. presidents are not           | d. on social media  |
| 5. taxpayers footed             | e. of austerity     |
| 6. down-to-                     | f. exempt           |
| 7. fourth most                  | g. his footsteps    |
| 8. mixed reaction               | h. the bill         |
| 9. little more than a publicity | i. earth living     |
| 10. follow in                   | j. their belts      |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of economy class?
- How do you feel when you sit on an airplane?
- What do you think of Indonesia's leader flying economy?
- When have you had to tighten your belt (financially)?
- How could other world leaders follow suit?
- Do people in power have a responsibility to act modestly?
- Should President Widodo have not taken his bodyguards?
- Does your leader spend too much on personal things?

## Spelling

- adopted a spirit of trsyueait
- htenitg their belts
- presidents are not txmepe
- graduation renmyoec
- use the iffciloa presidential airplane
- taxpayers oodfet the bill
- led a very semotd lifestyle
- the world's fourth most sopulupo country
- snidrege dresses
- mixed ecrtoin on social media
- little more than a lpcyibtui stunt
- can follow in his tsseofpto

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. i
6. c	7. h	8. a	9. e	10. g

## Role Play

### Role A – Going to coffee shops

You think going to coffee shops is the easiest thing to cut back on. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so easy to cut back on. Also, tell the others which is the most difficult of these (and why): buying books, spending on hobbies or travel.

### Role B – Buying books

You think buying books is the easiest thing to cut back on. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so easy to cut back on. Also, tell the others which is the most difficult of these (and why): going to coffee shops, spending on hobbies or travel.

### Role C – Spending on hobbies

You think spending on hobbies is the easiest thing to cut back on. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so easy to cut back on. Also, tell the others which is the most difficult of these (and why): going to coffee shops, buying books or travel.

### Role D – Travel

You think travel is the easiest thing to cut back on. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so easy to cut back on. Also, tell the others which is the most difficult of these (and why): going to coffee shops, spending on hobbies or buying books.

## Speaking – Austerity

Rank these with your partner. Put the things you could cut back on at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| • transport    | • books    |
| • clothes      | • shopping |
| • cafes        | • sweets   |
| • mobile phone | • hobbies  |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.