

## Castro and Obama in historic handshake

13th April, 2015



Relations between the USA and Cuba took a step towards becoming more normal on Friday when the leaders of the two countries, Raul Castro and Barack Obama, shook

hands. They met briefly at the Summit of the Americas in Panama. This is a meeting for countries in North, Central and South America to discuss a better future for their continents. The historic handshake will help the USA and Cuba end their bitterness towards each other. The two countries have barely spoken for more than 50 years. America banned its citizens from visiting Cuba and banned most Cuban goods from being exported to the USA. Over a decade ago, the USA declared Cuba was a sponsor of international terrorism.

Castro and Obama are expected to have a sit-down meeting. They will discuss how to make sure their countries can have a better future together. The meeting will be the highest-level talks between the USA and Cuba since Richard Nixon and Fidel Castro met in 1959. A US security advisor said: "The reason we're here is that the President strongly believes that an approach that was focused...totally on seeking to cut off the Cuban people from the USA had failed." President Obama said: "I think the Cuban people are extraordinary and have huge potential. And what's encouraging is the overwhelming majority of Cubans are interested in...moving forward." The two countries are only 151 km apart.

Sources: *CNN.com / MiamiHerald.com*

## Writing

All countries will have good relations in 50 years. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*relations / normal / briefly / handshake / bitterness / banned / citizens / terrorism / meeting / highest level / security / advisor / approach / extraordinary / moving forward*

## True / False

- The leaders of the USA and Cuba had a sit-down meeting last Friday. T / F
- The two leaders met each other in Panama. T / F
- Countries from North, South and Central America were at the meeting. T / F
- America stopped most Cuban goods from coming in to the country. T / F
- Obama and Castro will talk to repair relations between their nations. T / F
- The last high-level meeting between the two nations was 10 years ago. T / F
- President Obama said the USA's actions towards Cuba had worked. T / F
- Obama said most Cubans were not interested in moving forward. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. briefly       | a. came together        |
| 2. discuss       | b. hate                 |
| 3. historic      | c. amazing              |
| 4. bitterness    | d. momentarily          |
| 5. declared      | e. supposed             |
| 6. expected      | f. trying               |
| 7. met           | g. said                 |
| 8. seeking       | h. talk about           |
| 9. extraordinary | i. away from each other |
| 10. apart        | j. important            |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about relations between Cuba and the US?
- How historic is the handshake?
- What will change between the USA and Cuba?
- What countries is your country bitter towards (and why)?
- What will change if the USA and Cuba have good relations?
- Which two world countries really need to have better relations?
- How important is shaking hands in your country?
- How important is the Summit of the Americas?

# BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

- |                                       |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. They met                           | a. more than 50 years |
| 2. end their bitterness               | b. talks              |
| 3. barely spoken for                  | c. terrorism          |
| 4. Over a decade                      | d. apart              |
| 5. a sponsor of international         | e. towards each other |
| 6. expected to have a sit-            | f. down meeting       |
| 7. have a better                      | g. majority of Cubans |
| 8. highest-level                      | h. ago                |
| 9. the overwhelming                   | i. future together    |
| 10. The two countries are only 151 km | j. briefly            |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think the two leaders will talk about?
- Why was wrong with the US approach of cutting off Cubans?
- What will change in Cuba if better relations come?
- Would you like to go to Cuba?
- Will American voters like what Obama is doing?
- What potential do the people in your country have?
- What will USA-Cuba relations be like in a decade from now?
- What questions would you like to ask Castro?

## Spelling

- They met leyifrb
- a better future for their etisnocntn
- The two countries have yrلابe spoken
- goods from being rpedexto to the USA
- Over a ecedda ago
- a sponros of international terrorism
- expetdec to have a sit-down meeting
- A US security dovaisr
- an haaocrpp that was focused
- have huge taoepitln
- the overwhelming jamoyitr of Cubans
- The two countries are only 151 km aprtā

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Handshakes

You think handshakes are best for good relations between countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): honesty, the same language or cooperation.

### Role B – Honesty

You think honesty is best for good relations between countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): handshakes, the same language or cooperation.

### Role C – Same language

You think the same best for good relations between countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): honesty, handshakes or cooperation.

### Role D – Cooperation

You think cooperation is best for good relations between countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): honesty, the same language or handshakes.

## Speaking – Good relations

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things for good relations between countries at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| • handshakes | • history       |
| • presents   | • helpfulness   |
| • honesty    | • cooperation   |
| • time       | • same language |

### Answers – True False

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