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Level 6

Zimbabwe's new currency is U.S. dollar

15th June, 2015

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1506/150615-currency.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1506/150615-currency.html>

The central bank of Zimbabwe scrapped the country's national currency on Friday and started using the U.S. dollar. The Zimbabwean dollar has for the past decade become more and more worthless because of spiralling inflation. Hyperinflation peaked at an incredible 500 billion per cent in 2008. Since then, Zimbabweans began seeking financial security in the U.S. dollar. Economists estimate that today, 90 per cent of the economy is based on the U.S. dollar. People have until September to exchange their remaining local currency for the U.S. dollar. The official exchange rate is one U.S. dollar to 35 quadrillion Zimbabwean dollars. That's 35 followed by 15 zeroes.

All is not lost for the old Zimbabwean dollar. The large number of zeroes that make up each denomination of the bills is making them a collector's item online. On the auction site eBay, a 100 trillion Zimbabwean dollar note is getting up to US\$35 from bidders. This is nearly one hundred times more than the 40 U.S. cents the bill is officially worth in a bank. One hundred trillion is one followed by 14 zeroes. The 100 trillion dollar bill used to be able to buy a weekly bus ticket. One enterprising Zimbabwean has decided to cash in on the old currency by selling it to tourists. Shadreck Gutuza, a former currency trader, said it was a waste of time to cash it in at the banks when tourists will buy the notes for US\$20.

Sources: <http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN00T0AS20150613?sp=true>
<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/zimbabwe-ditches-worthless-currency-dollar-article-1.2256966>
<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2015/06/13/count-zeroes-zimbabwe-central-bank-allows-banknote-exchange/>

WARM-UPS

1. CURRENCIES: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about currencies. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

central bank / national currency / the past decade / worthless / financial security / zeroes / collector's item / a quadrillion / weekly / bus ticket / tourists / trader / cash

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

3. NUMBERS: What are these numbers used for? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How many zeroes?	Uses?
Hundreds		
Thousands		
Millions		
Billions		
Trillions		
Quadrillions		

4. WORLD CURRENCY: Students A **strongly** believe it would be better if the world had just one currency; Students B **strongly** believe this would never work. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. MONEY: Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways of paying at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- U.S. dollars (cash)
- Bitcoins (online money)
- Credit cards
- Checks / Cheques
- Mobile phone
- A world currency
- PayPal
- Bank transfer

6. DOLLAR: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "dollar". 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/1506/150615-currency.html>

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

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. Zimbabwe stopped using its old currency last week. | T / F |
| b. Inflation in Zimbabwe was once 500,000,000,000%. | T / F |
| c. Over 99% of the Zimbabwe economy already uses the U.S. dollar. | T / F |
| d. A quadrillion is a one followed by 15 zeroes. | T / F |
| e. The old Zimbabwe currency is now selling to collectors online. | T / F |
| f. A 100 trillion Zimbabwean dollar note is getting US\$350 on eBay. | T / F |
| g. A 100 trillion Zimbabwean dollar note can be cashed for \$4 in a bank. | T / F |
| h. Tourists are buying 100 trillion dollar bills for US\$200. | T / F |

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

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. scrapped | a. value |
| 2. decade | b. bills |
| 3. spiralled | c. left over |
| 4. estimate | d. rocketed |
| 5. remaining | e. fetching |
| 6. denomination | f. got rid of |
| 7. getting | g. almost |
| 8. nearly | h. resourceful |
| 9. enterprising | i. 10 years |
| 10. notes | j. roughly calculate |

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

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. scrapped the country's | a. by 15 zeroes |
| 2. for the past | b. security |
| 3. spiralling | c. lost |
| 4. seeking financial | d. decade |
| 5. That's 35 followed | e. from bidders |
| 6. All is not | f. national currency |
| 7. a collector's | g. trader |
| 8. getting up to US\$35 | h. item |
| 9. cash in | i. inflation |
| 10. a former currency | j. on the old currency |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1506/150615-currency.html>

The central bank of Zimbabwe (1) _____ the country's national currency on Friday and started using the U.S. dollar. The Zimbabwean dollar has for the (2) _____ decade become more and more (3) _____ because of spiralling inflation. Hyperinflation peaked at an incredible 500 billion per cent in 2008. Since then, Zimbabweans began seeking financial (4) _____ in the U.S. dollar. Economists (5) _____ that today, 90 per cent of the economy is (6) _____ on the U.S. dollar. People have until September to exchange their (7) _____ local currency for the U.S. dollar. The official exchange rate is one U.S. dollar to 35 (8) _____ Zimbabwean dollars. That's 35 followed by 15 zeroes.

past
security
based
quadrillion
scrapped
worthless
remaining
estimate

All is not (9) _____ for the old Zimbabwean dollar. The large number of zeroes that make up (10) _____ denomination of the bills is making them a collector's item online. On the auction (11) _____ eBay, a 100 trillion Zimbabwean dollar note is getting up to US\$35 from bidders. This is (12) _____ one hundred times more than the 40 U.S. cents the bill is officially (13) _____ in a bank. One hundred trillion is one followed by 14 zeroes. The 100 trillion dollar bill used to be able to buy a weekly bus ticket. One (14) _____ Zimbabwean has decided to cash in on the old currency by selling it to tourists. Shadreck Gutuza, a (15) _____ currency trader, said it was a (16) _____ of time to cash it in at the banks when tourists will buy the notes for US\$20.

site
worth
each
enterprising
waste
lost
nearly
former

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1506/150615-currency.html>

- 1) The central bank of Zimbabwe scrapped the country's _____
 - a. notional currency
 - b. national currency
 - c. gnash and all currency
 - d. gnashing all currency
- 2) become more and more worthless because of _____
 - a. spiral in inflation
 - b. spiralling inflation
 - c. spire a ring inflation
 - d. spire ailing inflation
- 3) Since then, Zimbabweans began seeking financial _____ dollar
 - a. security on the U.S.
 - b. security in a U.S.
 - c. security inner U.S.
 - d. security in the U.S.
- 4) People have until September to exchange their remaining _____
 - a. locally currency
 - b. localise currency
 - c. local currency
 - d. low call currency
- 5) ...35 quadrillion Zimbabwean dollars. That's 35 followed _____
 - a. buy 15 zeroes
 - b. bay 15 zeroes
 - c. bye 15 zeroes
 - d. by 15 zeroes
- 6) The large number of zeroes that make up each denomination _____
 - a. of the dills
 - b. of the gills
 - c. of the bills
 - d. of the tills
- 7) a 100 trillion Zimbabwean dollar note is getting up to _____
 - a. US\$35 from biddings
 - b. US\$35 from boldest
 - c. US\$35 from baddies
 - d. US\$35 from bidders
- 8) This is nearly one hundred times more than the 40 U.S. cents the bill is _____ bank
 - a. officially worth in the
 - b. officially worth inner
 - c. officially worth on a
 - d. officially worth in a
- 9) The 100 trillion dollar bill used to be able to buy a _____
 - a. weekly bus ticket
 - b. weakly bus ticket
 - c. wee key bus ticket
 - d. weak key ticket
- 10) Shadreck Gutuza, a former currency trader, said it was a waste of _____
 - a. time to cash it on
 - b. time to cash it in
 - c. time to cashed it in
 - d. time to cash it tin

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1506/150615-currency.html>

The central bank of Zimbabwe (1) _____ national currency on Friday and started using the U.S. dollar. The Zimbabwean dollar has for the past decade become more (2) _____ because of spiralling inflation. Hyperinflation (3) _____ incredible 500 billion per cent in 2008. Since then, Zimbabweans began seeking financial security in the U.S. dollar. Economists (4) _____, 90 per cent of the economy is based on the U.S. dollar. People have until September to exchange (5) _____ currency for the U.S. dollar. The official exchange rate is one U.S. dollar to 35 quadrillion Zimbabwean dollars. That's 35 (6) _____.

All (7) _____ old Zimbabwean dollar. The large number of zeroes that make up each denomination of the (8) _____ them a (9) _____. On the auction site eBay, a 100 trillion Zimbabwean dollar note is getting up to US\$35 from bidders. This is nearly one hundred times more than the 40 U.S. cents the (10) _____ in a bank. One hundred trillion is one followed by 14 zeroes. The 100 trillion dollar bill used to be able to buy a weekly bus ticket. One enterprising Zimbabwean has (11) _____ the old currency by selling it to tourists. Shadreck Gutuza, a former currency trader, said it was a waste of (12) _____ at the banks when tourists will buy the notes for US\$20.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1506/150615-currency.html>

1. Which of Zimbabwe's banks scrapped the national currency?

2. For how long had the Zimbabwean dollar been losing value?

3. When was inflation at 500 billion per cent?

4. How much of the Zimbabwean economy uses the U.S. dollar?

5. How many zeroes are there in a quadrillion?

6. Where is the old Zimbabwean dollar becoming a collector's item?

7. How much is a 100 trillion Zimbabwean dollar note fetching on eBay?

8. How much is a 100 trillion Zimbabwean dollar note worth in a bank?

9. What did a 100 trillion Zimbabwean dollar note used to be able to buy?

10. Who is buying the old notes for US\$20?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1506/150615-currency.html>

1. Which of Zimbabwe's banks scrapped the national currency?
 - a) ZNB
 - b) the national bank of Zimbabwe
 - c) the central bank
 - d) HSBC
2. For how long had the Zimbabwean dollar been losing value?
 - a) a decade
 - b) a quarter of a century
 - c) 30 years
 - d) a few years
3. When was inflation at 500 billion per cent?
 - a) 2005
 - b) 2006
 - c) 2007
 - d) 2008
4. How much of the Zimbabwean economy uses the U.S. dollar?
 - a) all of it
 - b) 90%
 - c) half
 - d) three-quarters
5. How many zeroes are there in a quadrillion?
 - a) 16
 - b) 13
 - c) 15
 - d) 14
6. Where is the old Zimbabwean dollar becoming a collector's item?
 - a) China
 - b) online
 - c) the USA
 - d) South Africa
7. How much is a 100 trillion Zimbabwean dollar note fetching on eBay?
 - a) US\$14
 - b) US\$40
 - c) US\$100
 - d) US\$35
8. How much is a 100 trillion Zimbabwean dollar note worth in a bank?
 - a) 50 US cents
 - b) 40 US cents
 - c) 20 US cents
 - d) 30 US cents
9. What did a 100 trillion Zimbabwean dollar note used to be able to buy?
 - a) a bus ticket
 - b) a chicken curry
 - c) a house
 - d) a newspaper
10. Who is buying the old notes for US\$20?
 - a) bidders
 - b) currency traders
 - c) bankers
 - d) tourists

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1506/150615-currency.html>

Role A – U.S. dollars

You think U.S. dollars are the best way of paying for things. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their ways aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): credit cards, Bitcoins or PayPal.

Role B – Credit cards

You think credit cards are the best way of paying for things. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their ways aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): U.S. dollars, Bitcoins or PayPal.

Role C – Bitcoins

You think Bitcoins are the best way of paying for things. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their ways aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): credit cards, U.S. dollars or PayPal.

Role D – PayPal

You think PayPal is the best way of paying for things. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their ways aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): credit cards, Bitcoins or U.S. dollars.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1506/150615-currency.html>

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

national	currency

- 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">• Friday• past• peaked• seeking• based• followed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• lost• online• getting• worth• able• former
---	---

CURRENCIES SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1506/150615-currency.html>

Write five GOOD questions about currencies 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.

CURRENCIES DISCUSSION

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

- 1) What did you think when you read the headline?
- 2) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'bank'?
- 3) What do you think about your national currency?
- 4) What do you think of other countries using the U.S. dollar as their national currency?
- 5) What experiences do you have of inflation?
- 6) How much financial security do you have?
- 7) What do you think of the idea of a single world currency?
- 8) Should Zimbabwe have created a new national currency?
- 9) Why is the U.S. dollar so popular?
- 10) Why are exchange rates between currencies important?

Zimbabwe's new currency is U.S. dollar – 15th June, 2015
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CURRENCIES DISCUSSION

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

- 11) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- 12) What do you think of the old notes becoming a collector's item?
- 13) What do you think of buying things on sites like eBay?
- 14) Would you buy the 100-trillion-dollar notes as an investment?
- 15) How do you think U.S. dollars will change Zimbabwe?
- 16) What's the best thing to do to combat hyperinflation?
- 17) How good would it be to work as a currency trader?
- 18) Should all money be in digital form, with no notes or coins?
- 19) What do you think about money?
- 20) What questions would you like to ask Zimbabwe's finance minister?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1506/150615-currency.html>

The central bank of Zimbabwe (1) _____ the country's national currency on Friday and started using the U.S. dollar. The Zimbabwean dollar has for the past decade become more and more (2) _____ because of spiralling inflation. Hyperinflation peaked at an (3) _____ 500 billion per cent in 2008. Since then, Zimbabweans began seeking financial security (4) _____ the U.S. dollar. Economists estimate that today, 90 per cent of the economy is (5) _____ on the U.S. dollar. People have until September to exchange their remaining local currency for the U.S. dollar. The official exchange rate is one U.S. dollar to 35 quadrillion Zimbabwean dollars. That's 35 (6) _____ by 15 zeroes.

All is not (7) _____ for the old Zimbabwean dollar. The large number of zeroes that make up each denomination of the bills is making them a collector's (8) _____ online. On the auction site eBay, a 100 trillion Zimbabwean dollar note is getting up to US\$35 from (9) _____. This is nearly one hundred times more than the 40 U.S. cents the bill is officially (10) _____ in a bank. One hundred trillion is one followed by 14 zeroes. The 100 trillion dollar bill used to be able to buy a weekly bus ticket. One enterprising Zimbabwean has decided to cash (11) _____ on the old currency by selling it to tourists. Shadreck Gutuza, a former currency trader, said it was a (12) _____ of time to cash it in at the banks when tourists will buy the notes for US\$20.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) scraped | (b) scrapped | (c) scuppered | (d) scooped |
| 2. | (a) worthwhile | (b) worthless | (c) worthy | (d) worth |
| 3. | (a) inedible | (b) improper | (c) impressive | (d) incredible |
| 4. | (a) on | (b) in | (c) for | (d) by |
| 5. | (a) powered | (b) basted | (c) levelled | (d) based |
| 6. | (a) chased | (b) pursued | (c) followed | (d) ran |
| 7. | (a) lost | (b) going | (c) money | (d) value |
| 8. | (a) thing | (b) invest | (c) item | (d) value |
| 9. | (a) batters | (b) baldies | (c) baddies | (d) bidders |
| 10. | (a) worth | (b) value | (c) money | (d) invest |
| 11. | (a) in | (b) of | (c) to | (d) at |
| 12. | (a) waste | (b) value | (c) worth | (d) spend |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1506/150615-currency.html>

Paragraph 1

1. cpasredp the country's national currency
2. for the past edceda
3. more and more hewltross
4. seeking financial tityrceus
5. exchange their igainmnre local currency
6. The iflfaioc exchange rate

Paragraph 2

7. each aniooitmnnde of the bills
8. the ntuiaco site eBay
9. getting up to US\$35 from dresdib
10. htowr in a bank
11. One iinnterrsnge Zimbabwean
12. a fermor currency trader

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1506/150615-currency.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

()	inflation. Hyperinflation peaked at an incredible 500 billion per cent in 2008. Since then, Zimbabweans began
()	seeking financial security in the U.S. dollar. Economists estimate that today, 90 per cent of
()	the economy is based on the U.S. dollar. People have until September to exchange
()	by 14 zeroes. The 100 trillion dollar bill used to be able to buy a weekly bus ticket. One enterprising Zimbabwean
()	has decided to cash in on the old currency by selling it to tourists. Shadreck Gutuza, a former currency
()	times more than the 40 U.S. cents the bill is officially worth in a bank. One hundred trillion is one followed
()	trader, said it was a waste of time to cash it in at the banks when tourists will buy the notes for US\$20.
()	their remaining local currency for the U.S. dollar. The official exchange rate is one U.S. dollar
()	All is not lost for the old Zimbabwean dollar. The large number of zeroes that make up each
()	denomination of the bills is making them a collector's item online. On the auction site eBay, a 100
()	U.S. dollar. The Zimbabwean dollar has for the past decade become more and more worthless because of spiralling
()	to 35 quadrillion Zimbabwean dollars. That's 35 followed by 15 zeroes.
()	trillion Zimbabwean dollar note is getting up to US\$35 from bidders. This is nearly one hundred
(1)	The central bank of Zimbabwe scrapped the country's national currency on Friday and started using the

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1506/150615-currency.html>

1. national country's the Scrapped Friday on currency .

2. spiralling more inflation worthless because More of and .

3. an billion at 500 cent peaked incredible per Hyperinflation .

4. remaining U.S. the local Exchange currency their dollar for .

5. U.S. One dollars Zimbabwean quadrillion 35 to dollar .

6. All lost old not the dollar is for Zimbabwean .

7. of zeroes that make up each denomination The large number .

8. trillion hundred . by zeroes 14 is followed one One

9. on in Cash tourists to it selling by currency old the .

10. was a waste in at the banks of time to cash it It .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1506/150615-currency.html>

The central bank of Zimbabwe *scrapped* / *scraped* the country's national currency on Friday and started using the U.S. dollar. The Zimbabwean dollar has for the *passed* / *past* decade become more and more *worthwhile* / *worthless* because of *spiralling* / *sprawling* inflation. Hyperinflation peaked at an *incredible* / *incredibly* 500 billion per cent in 2008. Since then, Zimbabweans began *soaking* / *seeking* financial security in the U.S. dollar. Economists *estimate* / *estimation* that today, 90 per cent of the economy is *based* / *biased* on the U.S. dollar. People have until September to exchange their *remaining* / *reminding* local currency for the U.S. dollar. The official exchange *ratio* / *rate* is one U.S. dollar to 35 quadrillion Zimbabwean dollars. That's 35 followed by 15 zeroes.

All is not *last* / *lost* for the old Zimbabwean dollar. The large number of zeroes that make up each *denomination* / *delineation* of the bills is making them a *collector's* / *connector's* item online. On the auction site eBay, a 100 trillion Zimbabwean dollar note is getting up to US\$35 from *baddies* / *bidders*. This is nearly one hundred times more than the 40 U.S. cents the bill is *officially* / *officialdom* worth in a bank. One hundred trillion is one *following* / *followed* by 14 zeroes. The 100 trillion dollar bill used to be *able* / *ability* to buy a weekly bus ticket. One *comprising* / *enterprising* Zimbabwean has decided to cash *up* / *in* on the old currency by selling it to tourists. Shadreck Gutuza, a former currency *tradesman* / *trader*, said it was a waste of time to cash it in at the banks when tourists will buy the notes for US\$20.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1506/150615-currency.html>

Th_ c_ntr_l b_nk _f Z_mb_bw_ scr_pp_d th_ c__ntry's
n_t__n_l c_rrncy _n Fr_d_y _nd st_rt_d _s_ng th_
_.S. d_ll_r. Th_ Z_mb_bw__n d_ll_r h_s f_r th_ p_st
d_c_d_ b_c_m_ m_r_ _nd m_r_ w_rthl_ss b_c__s_ _f
sp_r_llng _nfl_t__n. Hyp_r_nfl_t__n p__k_d _t__n
_ncr_d_bl_ 500 b_ll__n p_r_c_nt _n 2008. S_nc_ th_n,
Z_mb_bw__ns b_g_n s__k_ng f_n_nc__l s_c_r_ty _n
th_ __.S. d_ll_r. _c_n_m_sts _st_m_t_ th_t t_d_y, 90
p_r_c_nt _f th_ _c_n_my _s_b_s_d _n th_ __.S. d_ll_r.
P__pl_ h_v_ __nt_l S_pt_mb_r t_ _xch_ng_ th__r
r_m__n_ng l_c_l c_rrncy f_r th_ __.S. d_ll_r. Th_
_ff_c__l _xch_ng_ r_t_ __s _n___.S. d_ll_r t_ 35
q__dr_ll__n Z_mb_bw__n d_ll_rs. Th_t's 35 f_ll_w_d by
15 z_r__s.

_ll _s n_t l_st f_r th_ _ld Z_mb_bw__n d_ll_r. Th_
l_rg_ _n_mb_r _f z_r__s th_t m_k_ __p __ch
d_n_m_n_t__n _f th_ b_lls _s m_k_ng th_m _
c_ll_ct_r's _t_m _nl_n_. _n th_ __ct__n s_t_ _B_y, _
100 tr_ll__n Z_mb_bw__n d_ll_r n_t_ _s g_tt_ng _p t_
_S\$35 fr_m b_dd_rs. Th_s s_n__rly _n_h ndr_d t_m_s
m_r_ th_n th_ 40 __.S. c_nts th_ b_ll _s _ff_c__lly
w_rth _n _b_nk. _n_h ndr_d tr_ll__n _s _n_f_ll_w_d
by 14 z_r__s. Th_ 100 tr_ll__n d_ll_r b_ll _s_d t_ b_
bl t_ b_y _w__kly b_s t_ck_t. _n__nt_rpr_s_ng
Z_mb_bw__n h_s d_c_d_d t_ c_sh _n _n th_ _ld
c_rrncy by s_llng _t t_ t__r_sts. Sh_dr_ck G_t_z_, _
f_rm_r c_rrncy tr_d_r, s__d_t w_s _w_st_ _f t_m_t_
c_sh _t _n _t th_ b_nks wh_n t__r_sts w_ll b_y th_
n_t_s f_r _S\$20.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1506/150615-currency.html>

the central bank of zimbabwe scrapped the country's national currency on friday and started using the us dollar the zimbabwean dollar has for the past decade become more and more worthless because of spiralling inflation hyperinflation peaked at an incredible 500 billion per cent in 2008 since then zimbabweans began seeking financial security in the us dollar economists estimate that today 90 per cent of the economy is based on the us dollar people have until september to exchange their remaining local currency for the us dollar the official exchange rate is one us dollar to 35 quadrillion zimbabwean dollars that's 35 followed by 15 zeroes

all is not lost for the old zimbabwean dollar the large number of zeroes that make up each denomination of the bills is making them a collector's item online on the auction site ebay a 100 trillion zimbabwean dollar note is getting up to us\$35 from bidders this is nearly one hundred times more than the 40 us cents the bill is officially worth in a bank one hundred trillion is one followed by 14 zeroes the 100 trillion dollar bill used to be able to buy a weekly bus ticket one enterprising zimbabwean has decided to cash in on the old currency by selling it to tourists shadreck gutuza a former currency trader said it was a waste of time to cash it in at the banks when tourists will buy the notes for us\$20

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1506/150615-currency.html>

The central bank of Zimbabwe scrapped the country's national currency on Friday and started using the U.S. dollar. The Zimbabwean dollar has for the past decade become more and more worthless because of spiralling inflation. Hyperinflation peaked at an incredible 500 billion percent in 2008. Since then, Zimbabweans began seeking financial security in the U.S. dollar. Economists estimate that today, 90 percent of the economy is based on the U.S. dollar. People have until September to exchange their remaining local currency for the U.S. dollar. The official exchange rate is one U.S. dollar to 35 quadrillion Zimbabwean dollars. That's 35 followed by 15 zeroes. All is not lost for the old Zimbabwean dollar. The large number of zeroes that make up each denomination of the bills is making them a collector's item online. On the auction site eBay, a 100 trillion Zimbabwean dollar note is getting up to US\$35 from bidders. This is nearly one hundred times more than the 40 U.S. cents the bill is officially worth in a bank. One hundred trillion is one followed by 14 zeroes. The 100 trillion dollar bill used to be able to buy a weekly bus ticket. One enterprising Zimbabwean has decided to cash in on the old currency by selling it to tourists. Shadreck Gutuza, a former currency trader, said it was a waste of time to cash it in at the bank since tourists will buy the notes for US\$20.

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 currencies. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

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

4. WORLD CURRENCY: Write a magazine article about having a single world currency. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

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. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on currencies. Ask him/her three questions about Zimbabwe's situation. Give him/her three of your ideas on switching to a world currency. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. scrapped | a. got rid of |
| 2. decade | b. 10 years |
| 3. spiralled | c. rocketed |
| 4. estimate | d. roughly calculate |
| 5. remaining | e. left over |
| 6. denomination | f. value |
| 7. getting | g. fetching |
| 8. nearly | h. almost |
| 9. enterprising | i. resourceful |
| 10. notes | j. bills |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. The central bank
2. A decade
3. 2008
4. 90%
5. 15
6. Online (eBay)
7. US\$35
8. 40 US cents
9. A weekly bus ticket
10. Tourists

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. c 2. a 3. d 4. b 5. c 6. d 7. b 8. d 9. a 10. d

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)