

Donald Trump pushing ahead to acquire Greenland

19th January 2026



President Donald Trump is increasing his efforts to acquire Greenland. On Saturday, he announced he would impose 10 per cent tariffs on Denmark, Germany, Norway, Sweden, the UK and other countries if they did not "go along

with Greenland". These countries recently sent officials to Greenland. The tariffs will start on the first of February. President Trump suggested the levy would increase to 25 per cent in June, "due and payable until such time as a deal is reached for the complete and total purchase of Greenland". UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer responded to Trump's plans. He said: "Applying tariffs on allies for pursuing the collective security of NATO is completely wrong."

The acquisition of Greenland has been a high priority for President Trump since he took office again last year. He stressed that "the national security of the United States and the world at large is at stake" because "China and Russia want Greenland". He added: "It is imperative that, in order to protect global peace and security, strong measures be taken so that this potentially perilous situation ends quickly." President Trump said Greenland was a key component of the USA's Golden Dome missile defence system. Thousands of people in Greenland have protested against Trump's plans. In the capital city of Nuuk, protesters held signs reading "Greenland is not for sale".

Sources: [cnbc.com](https://www.cnbc.com) / [foxnews.com](https://www.foxnews.com) / [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com) / [wikipedia.org](https://www.wikipedia.org)

Writing

The world would be safer if the USA acquired Greenland. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

President Trump / Greenland / tariffs / officials / deal / plans / allies / security / NATO / priority / national security / global peace / perilous / missile defence / capital city

True / False

- 1) The article says President Trump will acquire Greenland in February. T / F
- 2) President Trump will put tariffs on all European countries in February. T / F
- 3) The tariffs could increase to 25% in June. T / F
- 4) The leader of the UK said the proposed tariffs were wrong. T / F
- 5) The article says acquiring Greenland is President Trump's top priority. T / F
- 6) President Trump said Greenland was important to secure world peace. T / F
- 7) Trump said Greenland was important for his missile defence system. T / F
- 8) Greenlanders said their country was not for sale. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. acquire | a. prime concern |
| 2. impose | b. vitally important |
| 3. go along with | c. apply |
| 4. due | d. striving for |
| 5. pursuing | e. dangerous |
| 6. priority | f. required |
| 7. at stake | g. part |
| 8. imperative | h. at risk |
| 9. perilous | i. consent to |
| 10. component | j. obtain |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Why is Greenland important for US security?
- c) What would happen if China and Russia took control of Greenland?
- d) What do you know about the Golden Dome missile defence system?
- e) How might the world change if the USA acquires Greenland?
- f) What three adjectives best describe this news story?
- g) How do you think this story will develop over the coming weeks?
- h) What questions would you like to ask President Trump?

Phrase Match

1. Trump is increasing his efforts
 2. he announced he would impose
 3. the levy would
 4. a deal is reached for the complete and total
 5. the collective security
 6. Greenland has been a high
 7. security of the United States
 8. in order
 9. this potentially
 10. the USA's Golden Dome missile
- a. purchase of Greenland
 - b. of NATO
 - c. to protect global peace
 - d. priority
 - e. defence system
 - f. to acquire Greenland
 - g. increase to 25 per cent
 - h. perilous situation
 - i. 10 per cent tariffs
 - j. and the world at large

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you know about Greenland?
- b) What do you know about President Trump's interest in Greenland?
- c) What do you think of tariffs?
- d) How is your country affected by tariffs?
- e) What do you know about NATO?
- f) What do European countries think about Trump's Greenland plans?
- g) How important is Greenland, and why?
- h) What advice do you have for Greenlanders?

Spelling

1. he announced he would oeimps 10% tariffs
2. the ylev would increase to 25%
3. due and aypblae
4. total pecurahs of Greenland
5. Applying tariffs on lilaes
6. ugrsinpu the collective security of NATO
7. a high topyriri for President Trump
8. It is iteivemarp
9. strong ermeusas
10. this potentially leposriu situation
11. a key nmoetponc
12. stotrrsepe held signs reading

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	How can some European countries avoid American tariffs?
2.	What did some European countries send to Greenland?
3.	What might happen in June?
4.	What did the UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer do?
5.	What did the UK leader say about tariffs on allies for NATO's security?
6.	What has been a high priority for President Trump?
7.	What did President Trump say was at stake?
8.	Who did President Trump say wanted Greenland?
9.	What is the name of the USA's missile defence system?
10.	What did protestors in Greenland write on their signs?

Speaking – National Security

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest national security threats at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Military invasion
- Election interference
- Energy supply disruption
- Pandemics
- Espionage
- Disinformation
- Terrorism
- Water scarcity

Answers – True False

1 F	2 F	3 T	4 T	5 F	6 T	7 T	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.