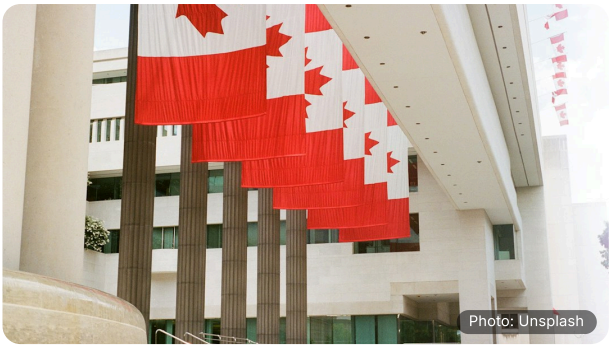
UK sanctions target West Bank settlements

LEVEL B2


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I. WARM-UP

1. What tools do governments use to show pressure or support?
2. What do you know about the West Bank?
3. When can trade limits be a useful policy?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

sanction
an official penalty, such as a ban, used to pressure behaviour

settlement
a community built on land that is disputed in this context

consulate
a government office abroad that represents a country

displacement
the forced moving of people from their homes or land

sovereignty
a state's full right to control its territory and laws

tender
a formal offer to build or supply something for a project

implement
to put a decision or plan into action

condemnation
strong public criticism of an action

III. READING

The UK announced sanctions on illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, which Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband said marked a new approach. He accused settlers of "ethnic cleansing" causing forced displacement, and said Israel's government had too often turned a blind eye.

France and Canada launched similar measures with the UK, and nine other European countries backed restrictions to protect a two-state solution.

The measures, which target settlements rather than Israel, will ban settlement goods and services that support expansion, and bar advertising of illegal West Bank settlements in the UK. A new sanctions regime will be implemented over six to nine months.

Citing a 2024 International Court of Justice opinion, Miliband argued the occupation is unlawful because of entrenched control, an intention to extend permanent sovereignty, and expansion via illegal settlements.

Israel's foreign minister Gideon Saar called the claim an "outrageous lie" and said Israel would close the UK's consulate in East Jerusalem and ban 11 UK MPs. The move followed tenders for about 1,200 homes in the E1 area east of Jerusalem, which drew international condemnation. Miliband warned E1 building would make a two-state deal unviable by "cutting through the heart of Palestine".

Reading text adapted from reporting by **BBC News***: "UK announces sanctions on West Bank settlements...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What action did the UK take against West Bank settlements?
2. Which two countries launched measures alongside the UK?
3. How long will the UK take to implement the new regime?
4. How did Israel respond to the UK announcement?
5. Why did plans for E1 raise concern, according to Miliband?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Are targeted sanctions an effective way to influence policy? Why?
2. What makes a sanction fair or unfair in your view?
3. How could countries support a two-state solution in practice?
4. What risks follow when a consulate is closed during a dispute?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Relative clauses (non-defining)

Non-defining relative clauses add extra information about a noun and are set off by commas. Use which for things (not that) and include the commas around the clause. Example form: noun, which + clause, adds extra detail.

> *"The advertising ban, **which applies in the UK**, covers illegal settlements."*
>
> *"France, **which launched similar measures**, acted alongside the UK."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

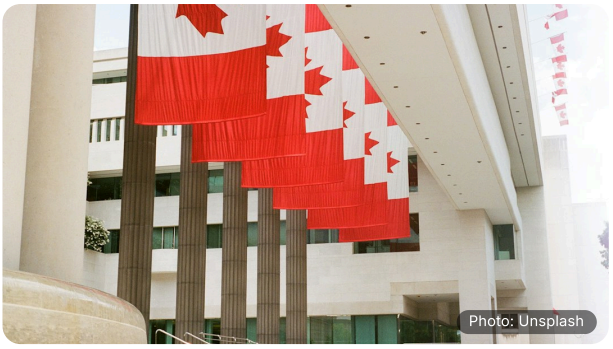
Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. The sanctions, (which / that) target settlements, were unveiled. _____
2. The consulate, (that / which) is in East Jerusalem, is to close. _____
3. The opinion, (which / that) the UK cited, dates from 2024. _____
4. The UK, (that / which) announced the move, faced criticism. _____
5. The plan, (which / that) aimed to protect talks, was criticised. _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


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I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 10 minutes vocabulary, 12–15 minutes reading, 10 minutes comprehension, 10 minutes discussion (grammar can share time with reading).
- Pre-teach or check: sanction, settlement, consulate, tender, sovereignty; activate prior knowledge of the two-state solution and the West Bank.
- This story involves conflict, displacement and treatment of groups; begin discussion in pairs, allow students to speak about the news rather than personal experience, and move on if needed.
- Differentiate by outcome: stronger students write a 40-word summary; others underline phrases that answer each comprehension question before speaking.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Poll the room first, then pair students with different views to swap reasons and examples.
2. Elicit criteria (targeted, legal basis, humanitarian impact) and put them on the board.
3. Set small groups to list two concrete steps, then compare and refine as a class.
4. Ask for short-term and long-term risks, then rank them by severity in pairs.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Debate: In teams, prepare and deliver a 90-second case for or against the UK's sanctions, using two facts from the text.

Role-play: In pairs, act a 2-minute press briefing: Ed Miliband explains the measures; a journalist asks probing questions about E1 and timing.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

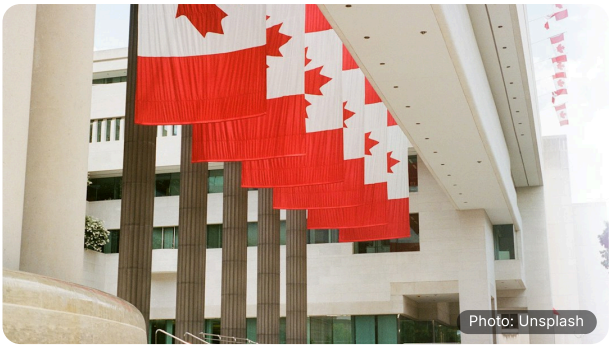
Grammar exercise: Relative clauses (non-defining)

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

TEACHERS ONLY

These answers are for teachers only. Please do not share this page with students.


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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What action did the UK take against West Bank settlements?
   It announced sanctions targeting illegal settlements, not Israel.
2. Which two countries launched measures alongside the UK?
   France and Canada.
3. How long will the UK take to implement the new regime?
   Six to nine months.
4. How did Israel respond to the UK announcement?
   It said it would close the UK consulate in East Jerusalem and ban 11 UK MPs.
5. Why did plans for E1 raise concern, according to Miliband?
   He said E1 building would cut through Palestine and make two states unviable.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Non-defining relative clauses add extra information about a noun and are set off by commas. Use which for things (not that) and include the commas around the clause. Example form: noun, which + clause, adds extra detail. (Examples constructed.)

*"The advertising ban, **which applies in the UK**, covers illegal settlements."*

*"France, **which launched similar measures**, acted alongside the UK."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. The sanctions, (which / that) target settlements, were unveiled. **which**
2. The consulate, (that / which) is in East Jerusalem, is to close. **which**
3. The opinion, (which / that) the UK cited, dates from 2024. **which**
4. The UK, (that / which) announced the move, faced criticism. **which**
5. The plan, (which / that) aimed to protect talks, was criticised. **which**