

Strong Economy

Brian talks about his country's economy.

Fanny: Hey, Brian, you know, recently I heard that the Canadian dollar is very strong.

Brian: It is. It's been amazingly strong in the last few months.

Fanny: What happened? I mean, how come?

Brian: It went up. The reasons behind why the Canadian dollar is strong...

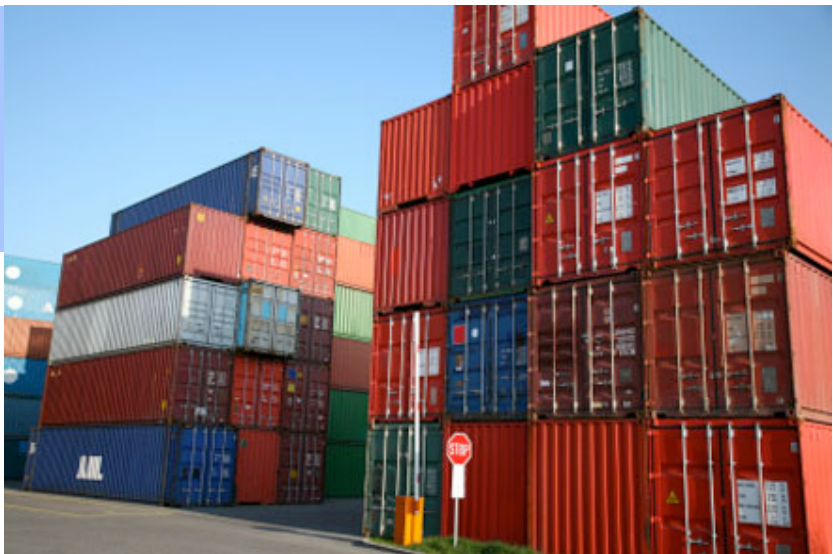
Fanny: Yeah.

Brian: Very good question. Without getting too complicated, my understanding is the Canadian dollar is linked to a lot of primary industries, so things like, say like, oil or mining or timber from like forests and right now I think there's a high demand for those kind of products, so because of that it's pushed the Canadian dollar up. But also I think many other currencies have gone down a bit, like the American dollar has dropped a lot.



Fanny: Really. OK.

Brian: I don't follow the currency markets too closely.



Fanny: OK, I see.

Brian: But I think because the American dollar has gone down as well, that means that, you know, it doesn't take as much Canadian money to equal the American money now, so I think those are probably two of the reasons why it's been strong.

Fanny: I see. I know that Canada is a country which is really rich in the natural resources, but are there still a lot of natural resources left now?

Brian: That's another good question. I think that there are still quite a lot of resources.

Fanny: Oh, nice.

Brian: Which is, you know, is good but some of them are decreasing quite a bit.

Fanny: I think so, because of consumption.

Brian: It's too...

Fanny: Too big.

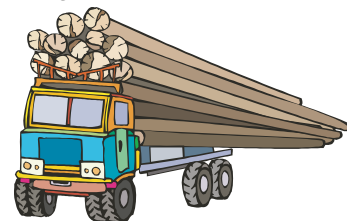
Brian: Right.

Fanny: Yeah.

Brian: And we export a lot of our resources too, so, you know, the United States is always taking a lot of our resources so that's like a huge market right, but I think there's still lots of oil but maybe the... some of the trees, you know, they cut them down pretty fast and they take a long time to grow back, so you have to watch out there.

Fanny: OK, I think that's a very reason for the strong Canadian dollar.

Brian: It could be but you probably should ask an economist. Maybe they can tell you a bit more informed insight than I can.



A) Main Points: Answer the following questions about the interview.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) What is helping the Canadian economy? | 3) What is said about Canada's resources? |
| a) Primary industries | a) There is still a lot. |
| b) Secondary industries | b) There is not much left. |
| c) Foreign investment | c) Consumption is decreasing. |
| 2) What does Brian discuss? | 4) What resource still has a large supply? |
| a) Inflation | a) Oil |
| b) Currencies | b) Timber |
| c) Wages | c) Coal |

B) Phrase Match: Match the phrases on the left with the example on the right.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------------------------------|
| 1) amazingly | _____ | why |
| 2) primary industries | _____ | very, incredibly |
| 3) how come | _____ | farming, mining, fishing, etc |
| 4) consumption | _____ | difficult to understand |
| 5) complicated | _____ | to buy, use, or deplete |

C) Unscramble: Put the mixed up sentences in the correct order.

1) _____
now | so | dollar | Why | the | is | strong | Canadian | ?

2) _____
resources | left | still | there | a | Are | lot | natural | of | ?

3) _____
are | What | the | industries | primary | your | of | economy | ?

4) _____
big | for | a | What | market | is | country | your | ?

***How would
Brian respond to
the questions?***

Put the PHRASES in the spaces

gone down
decreasing quite
reasons behind
as much
amazingly strong
cut them down
my understanding
informed insight



Fanny: Hey, Brian, you know, recently I heard that the Canadian dollar is very strong.

Brian: It is. It's been _____ in the last few months.

Fanny: What happened? I mean, how come?

Brian: It went up. The _____ why the Canadian dollar is strong...

Fanny: Yeah.

Brian: Very good question. Without getting too complicated, _____ is the Canadian dollar is linked to a lot of primary industries, so things like, say like, oil or mining or timber from like forests and right now I think there's a high demand for those kind of products, so because of that it's pushed the Canadian dollar up. But also I think many other currencies have _____ a bit, like the American dollar has dropped a lot.

Fanny: Really. OK.

Brian: I don't follow the currency markets too closely.

Fanny: OK, I see.

Brian: But I think because the American dollar has gone down as well, that means that, you know, it doesn't take _____ Canadian money to equal the American money now, so I think those are probably two of the reasons why it's been strong.

Fanny: I see. I know that Canada is a country which is really rich in the natural resources, but are there still a lot of natural resources left now?

Brian: That's another good question. I think that there are still quite a lot of resources.

Fanny: Oh, nice.

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Fanny: I think so, because of consumption.

Brian: It's too...

Fanny: Too big.

Brian: Right.

Fanny: Yeah.

Brian: And we export a lot of our resources too, so, you know, the Unites States is always taking a lot of our resources so that's like a huge market right, but I think there's still lots of oil but maybe the... some of the trees, you know, they _____ pretty fast and they take a long time to grow back, so you have to watch out there.

Fanny: OK, I think that's a very reason for the strong Canadian dollar.

Brian: It could be but you probably should ask an economist. Maybe they can tell you a bit more _____ than I can.

Comprehension Page : Answers

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A) Main Points: Answer the following questions about the interview.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) What is helping the Canadian economy? | 3) What is said about Canada's resources? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Primary industries b) Secondary industries c) Foreign investment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) There is still a lot. b) There is not much left. c) Consumption is decreasing. |
| 2) What does Brian discuss? | 4) What resource still has a large supply? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Inflation b) Currencies c) Wages | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Oil b) Timber c) Coal |

B) Phrase Match: Match the phrases on the left with the example on the right.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| 1) amazingly | <u>3</u> | why |
| 2) primary industries | <u>1</u> | very, incredibly |
| 3) how come | <u>2</u> | farming, mining, fishing, etc |
| 4) consumption | <u>5</u> | difficult to understand |
| 5) complicated | <u>4</u> | to buy, use, or deplete |

C) Unscramble: Put the mixed up sentences in the correct order.

1) **Why is the Canadian dollar so strong now?**

now | so | dollar | Why | the | is | strong | Canadian | ?

2) **Are there still a lot of natural resources left?**

resources | left | still | there | a | Are | lot | natural | of | ?

3) **What are the primary industries of your economy?**

are | What | the | industries | primary | your | of | economy | ?

4) **What is a big market for your country?**

big | for | a | What | market | is | country | your | ?

*How would
Brian respond to
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