

## Gaffes

Series: 6 Minute English

Audio: 6min\_20111110-1700a

Time: 6'10 mins

### I. Do you know the following words? Match the words and their definitions:

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. ban              | a. an effect, or an influence   |
| 2. bomb /bɒm/       | b. elections to the parliament  |
| 3. embarrassing     | c. kindness and understanding for sb who is experiencing sth unpleasant |
| 4. general election | d. making you feel nervous, ashamed, or stupid                          |
| 5. impact           | e. not safe, risky  |
| 6. liar             | f. not sensible, stupid   |
| 7. overhear         | g. someone who tells lies (=not truth)                                  |
| 8. sympathy         | h. to attack a place with a bomb  |
| 9. unreasonable     | i. to hear sb's conversation  |
| 10. unsound         | j. to say officially that people must not do, sell, or use sth          |

### II. Listen and answer the following questions:

- Who made a gaffe?
- What was it?
- Where there similar cases in the UK?
- What is "deference"?
- What does it mean to be a "bigoted" person?
- What is "the final nail in the coffin"?

### III. Complete the sentences with words from the podcast:

- The French president, Nicolas Sarkozy has suffered a rather \_\_\_\_\_ moment.
- He called the Israeli Prime Minister a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Obama appears to have some \_\_\_\_\_ with Mr Sarkozy.
- It took several days for French journalists who \_\_\_\_\_ the comments to report the story.
- French journalists might have thought it was ethically \_\_\_\_\_ to print the quotes.
- In France there is a \_\_\_\_\_ for the political class.
- Gordon Brown made a political gaffe before the last \_\_\_\_\_ in the UK in May last year.
- He was heard describing a person he had just spoken to in the street as a "\_\_\_\_\_ woman".
- A bigoted person is someone with strong and \_\_\_\_\_ opinions which they won't change.
- What kind of \_\_\_\_\_ did this political gaffe have on Gordon Brown?
- Many people agree that it was the \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_.
- Reagan jokes that he signed legislation which \_\_\_\_\_ Russia.
- He added that \_\_\_\_\_ing would start in 5 minutes.

### IV. Do you know such situations in Poland? Should journalists report it?

### V. Use the vocabulary from the podcast in another context:

- After the 1987 \_\_\_\_\_, Gould was considered Kinnock's natural successor.
- He believes the political right in America is becoming dangerously \_\_\_\_\_ (=intolerant).
- He's a good \_\_\_\_\_ who lies as easily as other men breathe.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ him saying he was thinking of leaving his job.
- Internet shopping has begun to have a serious \_\_\_\_\_ on traditional bookshops.
- It's his own fault, so he'll get no \_\_\_\_\_ from me.
- Observers fear that this strike will be \_\_\_\_\_ of the industry.
- She asked a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ questions.
- The book was \_\_\_\_\_ ed from school libraries.
- The houses are structurally \_\_\_\_\_.
- The old lady was treated with respect and \_\_\_\_\_.
- The price is completely \_\_\_\_\_ (=too high).
- The railway station was \_\_\_\_\_ ed by terrorists.