



# Toymakers Fear Trump's Tariffs Are Crushing Creativity

## Description

Jay Foreman notes he lacks Apple's profit margins to absorb tariffs.

The North American Toy Fair, showcasing the latest in whimsical toys, is typically a lively event. However, this year, the atmosphere was marred by soaring tariffs, which were significantly affecting businesses. In February, tariffs on Chinese goods were raised by 10%, and an unexpected additional 10% was enforced shortly thereafter, impacting imports from Mexico and Canada as well.

The toy industry, reliant on imports from China for over 80% of its products, found itself blindsided. Companies like Basic Fun! had intended to manage the initial 10% increase through price adjustments, yet the sudden toll of an additional 10% forced them to reconsider strategies. Jay Foreman, the company's leader, lamented that such cost hikes would inevitably lead to higher retail prices, making toys less affordable for consumers.

As uncertainty looms, many firms fear their plans for growth will be stymied by these sudden economic shifts. The Toy Association is advocating for exemptions, hoping to persuade policymakers that such tariffs on toys will only lead to reduced sales and unyielding public discontent.

## Vocabulary List:

1. **Tariffs** /'tær.ɪfs/ (noun): Taxes imposed on imported goods to restrict trade and protect domestic industries.
2. **Whimsical** /'wɪm.zɪ.kəl/ (adjective): Playfully quaint or fanciful especially in an appealing and amusing way.
3. **Reliant** /rɪ'laɪənt/ (adjective): Dependent on someone or something.
4. **Lamented** /lə'mentɪd/ (verb): Expressed sorrow or regret about something.
5. **Stymied** /'stɑɪ.mi:d/ (verb): Hindered or thwarted prevented from making progress.
6. **Advocating** /'æd.və.keɪt.ɪŋ/ (verb): Publicly recommending or supporting a particular cause or policy.

## Vocabulary quizzes

### Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )

1. What is the opposite of activity?

Option: Stimulate

Option: Exacerbate



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Option: Acknowledge

Option: Cautioned

2. What are taxes on imports and exports called?

Option: Whimsical

Option: Reliant

Option: Lamented

Option: Tariffs

3. What is to allow oneself to enjoy the pleasure of something?

Option: Procrastination

Option: Consequently

Option: Indulge

Option: Nurture

4. What is a synonym for thrive or prosper?

Option: Enhance

Option: Inevitably

Option: Perspectives

Option: Flourish

5. What is the mutual trust and friendship among people who spend a lot of time together?

Option: Allure

Option: Camaraderie

Option: Adrenaline

Option: Misconception

6. What is the feeling of responsibility or remorse for some offense?

Option: Guilt

Option: Alleviate

Option: Emotional

Option: Engrossed

7. What is a view or opinion that is incorrect because it is based on faulty thinking or understanding?

Option: Engrossed

Option: Misconception

Option: Guilt

Option: Alleviate

8. What is the act of supporting a cause or idea?

Option: Lamented

Option: Stymied

Option: Advocating



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Option: Procrastination

9. What is to improve or increase the quality value or attractiveness of something?

Option: Nurture

Option: Enhance

Option: Inevitably

Option: Perspectives

10. What means to encourage or arouse interest or enthusiasm?

Option: Outpace

Option: Stimulate

Option: Lamented

Option: Cautious

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

11. The technology sector continues to evolve rapidly with innovations that often \_\_\_\_\_  
older technologies.

12. The doctor \_\_\_\_\_ the patient about the potential side effects of the medication.

13. Parents play a crucial role in the \_\_\_\_\_ of their children providing love care and  
guidance.

14. The heavy rain caused flooding and \_\_\_\_\_ many roads were closed.

15. Traveling to different countries can broaden your \_\_\_\_\_ and help you understand  
diverse cultures.

16. As technology advances some jobs will be replaced by automation; this change is  
\_\_\_\_\_.

17. Extreme sports like skydiving can provide an adrenaline rush for those seeking \_\_\_\_\_  
activities.



18. The team \_\_\_\_\_ their defeat but vowed to train harder for the next match.
19. \_\_\_\_\_ can lead to missed opportunities and increased stress as tasks pile up.
20. Taking a walk in nature can help to \_\_\_\_\_ stress and clear the mind.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

21. Children are often on their parents for support and guidance.
22. The artist's paintings were known for their _____ and playful themes.
23. Regular exercise can help combat the negative effects of _____ and sedentary lifestyles.
24. Using harsh chemicals can _____ skin conditions like eczema.
25. The scientist's groundbreaking research was _____ by the scientific community.
26. The team was _____ by the challenging puzzle unable to solve it.
27. The lavish resort's spa had an _____ that attracted visitors from around the world.
28. The sudden migration of birds was a natural _____ that fascinated scientists.
29. The movie's ending was so touching that it left many viewers in a highly _____ state.
30. The gripping novel had readers completely unable to put the book down.

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Stimulate 2. Tariffs 3. Indulge 4. Flourish 5. Camaraderie 6. Guilt 7. Misconception 8. Advocating 9. Enhance 10. Stimulate

**Gap-Fill:** 11. Outpace 12. Cautioned 13. Nurture 14. Consequently 15. Perspectives 16. Inevitably 17. Adrenaline 18. Lamented 19. Procrastination 20. Alleviate

**Matching sentence:** 1. Reliant 2. Whimsical 3. Inactivity 4. Exacerbate 5. Acknowledged 6. Stymied 7. Allure 8. Phenomenon 9. Emotional 10. Engrossed

## CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL4

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