
US-China Trade Talks Begin This Week: What to Expect

Description

This week, American and Chinese officials are poised to initiate negotiations aimed at de-escalating the ongoing trade conflict that has persisted between the two largest economies in the world.

Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng is scheduled to participate in discussions in Switzerland from May 9 to 12, as announced by China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Representing the United States will be Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, according to their respective offices.

Following his return to the White House in January, President Donald Trump has implemented substantial import tariffs on Chinese products, reaching as high as 145%.

In retaliation, Beijing has countered with tariffs on certain U.S. goods at a rate of 125%.

These talks signify the first significant diplomatic engagement between the two nations since Chinese Vice-President Han Zheng attended Trump's inauguration earlier this year.

Secretary Bessent expressed his eagerness for a recalibration of the international economic framework to better align with American interests.

In an interview with Fox News, he remarked, "My impression is that this dialogue will focus primarily on de-escalation rather than the broader trade agreement; we must reduce tensions before progress can be achieved."

A spokesperson from China's commerce ministry cautioned that if the United States seeks to resolve these issues through dialogue, it must acknowledge the detrimental impacts of unilateral tariff policies on both itself and the broader global economy.

Chinese state media reported that Beijing's decision to engage with the U.S. stems from a comprehensive assessment of global expectations, domestic interests, and appeals from American businesses.

The report further emphasized that while China is open to dialogue, it remains resolute in its readiness to continue the trade conflict if necessary.

The trade war has already instigated considerable turmoil in financial markets and reverberated throughout the global trading system.

Trade expert Deborah Elms, Head of Trade Policy at the Hinrich Foundation in Singapore, expressed skepticism about the potential outcome of the talks, stating, "While starting a dialogue is certainly valuable, I doubt it will produce the breakthrough many are anticipating."



Vocabulary List:

1. **De-escalating** /,di:'es.kə.leɪt.ɪŋ/ (verb): To reduce the intensity or seriousness of a situation.
2. **Retaliation** /rɪ,tæ.lɪ'i'eɪ.ʃən/ (noun): The act of returning an injury or wrong done to one.
3. **Negotiations** /nɪ'ɡəʊ.ʃi'eɪ.ʃənz/ (noun): Discussions aimed at reaching an agreement.
4. **Framework** /'freɪm.wɜrk/ (noun): A basic structure underlying a system or concept.
5. **Comprehensive** /,kəm.prɪ'hɛn.sɪv/ (adjective): Including all or nearly all elements or aspects of something.
6. **Skepticism** /'skɛp.tɪ.sɪ.zəm/ (noun): An attitude of doubt or a disposition to incredulity either in general or toward a particular object.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. Who is scheduled to participate in discussions in Switzerland?
Option: He Lifeng
Option: Jamieson Greer
Option: Scott Bessent
Option: Han Zheng
2. Who is the Treasury Secretary of the United States participating in the negotiations?
Option: Scott Bessent
Option: Jamieson Greer
Option: He Lifeng
Option: Han Zheng
3. What percentage of import tariffs has President Donald Trump implemented on Chinese products?
Option: 145%
Option: 125%
Option: 120%
Option: 150%
4. From the excerpt, China has countered with tariffs on certain U.S. goods at a rate of:
Option: 125%
Option: 150%



Option: 120%

Option: 130%

5. What did Secretary Bessent express his eagerness for?

Option: Recalibration of the international economic framework

Option: Increasing trade tariffs

Option: Initiating a broader trade agreement

Option: Imposing sanctions on China

6. According to the text, what did the spokesperson from China's commerce ministry caution about?

Option: Unintended consequences of unilateral tariff policies

Option: Benefits of trade conflicts

Option: Necessity of raising trade barriers

Option: Support for higher import tariffs

True-False

7. The talks between American and Chinese officials mark the first significant diplomatic engagement between the two nations since Chinese Vice-President Han Zheng attended Trump's inauguration earlier this year.

8. Chinese state media reported that Beijing is not open to dialogue with the U.S. and prefers to continue the trade conflict.

9. Deborah Elms expressed optimism about the potential outcome of the talks.

10. The trade war has not affected financial markets significantly.

11. President Donald Trump has not imposed any import tariffs on Chinese products.

12. The Chinese spokesperson emphasized the need for mutual understanding of the impacts of unilateral tariff policies.

Gap-Fill

13. Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng is scheduled to participate in discussions in Switzerland from May 9 to _____.

14. President Donald Trump has implemented substantial import tariffs on Chinese products, reaching as _____.



high as _____ %.

16. The trade war has already instigated considerable turmoil in _____ markets and reverberated throughout the global trading system.

18. Secretary Bessent expressed his eagerness for a recalibration of the international economic framework to better align with _____ interests.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. He Lifeng 2. Scott Bessent 3. 145% 4. 125% 5. Recalibration of the international economic framework 6. Unintended consequences of unilateral tariff policies

True-False: 7. True 8. False 9. False 10. False 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. 12 14. 145 16. financial 18. American

Vocabulary quizzes

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

1. What term describes the process of changing from one state or condition to another?

Option: Dependency

Option: Transitioning

Option: Trajectory

Option: Geopolitical

2. Which term refers to a sudden strong increase in something?

Option: Valuation

Option: Surge

Option: Chancellor

Option: Discontent

3. What is the process of discussing something in order to reach an agreement?

Option: De-escalating

Option: Negotiations

Option: Tariffs

Option: Divesting



-
4. Which term describes something that is complete and includes everything that is necessary?
- Option: Intrinsic
 - Option: Comprehensive
 - Option: Urgency
 - Option: Investor
5. What term means to take apart or demolish something?
- Option: Perception
 - Option: Dismantle
 - Option: Strategic
 - Option: Expenditures
6. Which term refers to the basic nature of something its essence?
- Option: Undermine
 - Option: Ambition
 - Option: Intrinsic
 - Option: Framework
7. Who is the head of government in some European countries?
- Option: Chancellor
 - Option: Retaliation
 - Option: Apprehension
 - Option: Production
8. Which term describes things or people that are connected or related to each other?
- Option: Dependencies
 - Option: Constrain
 - Option: Interconnected
 - Option: Undermine
9. What are taxes on imported or exported goods?
- Option: Geopolitical
 - Option: Tariffs
 - Option: Discontent
 - Option: Apprehension
10. Who is someone who puts money into financial schemes shares or property with the expectation of a profit?
- Option: Urgency
 - Option: Investor
 - Option: Divesting
 - Option: Surge



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

11. Efforts are underway to increase _____ to meet growing demand.
12. Overreliance on a single source can create a dangerous _____.
13. The new proposal was met with _____ from the public.
14. The company is looking to reduce unnecessary _____ to improve profitability.
15. A solid legal _____ is essential for a fair and just society.
16. There is a sense of _____ in the air as tensions rise between the two countries.
17. His _____ drove him to succeed against all odds.
18. The situation requires immediate attention due to its _____.
19. A professional appraisal can provide an accurate _____ of the property.
20. The growing _____ among the workforce led to a series of strikes.

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

21. The conflict between the two nations had broader implications on international relations.
22. After the enemy attack a swift was planned to show strength.
23. The shifting alliances in the region have significant impact.
24. Budget limitations will our ability to expand the project.
25. Efforts are being made towards tensions in the region.
26. The company decided to focus on core operations by from non-core assets.
27. Public of the new policy was mostly positive.
28. There has been a sudden in demand for the product.



29. Constant criticism can one's confidence over time.

30. The success of the project relies on various working together.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Transitioning 2. Surge 3. Negotiations 4. Comprehensive 5. Dismantle 6. Intrinsic
7. Chancellor 8. Interconnected 9. Tariffs 10. Investor

Gap-Fill: 11. Production 12. Dependency 13. Skepticism 14. Expenditures 15. Framework 16. Apprehension
17. Ambition 18. Urgency 19. Valuation 20. Discontent

Matching sentence: 1. Geopolitical 2. Retaliation 3. Geopolitical 4. Constrain 5. De-escalating 6. Divesting
7. Perception 8. Surge 9. Undermine 10. Dependencies

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL5

Date Created

2025/05/08

Author

aimeeyoung99

ESL-NEWS.COM