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## Level 6

# Mothers face workplace discrimination

10th August, 2013

[http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1308/130810-workplace\\_discrimination.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1308/130810-workplace_discrimination.html)

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**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace\\_discrimination.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace_discrimination.html)

More than one in four British mothers who have returned to work feel discriminated against. This is according to a survey conducted by the legal firm Slater and Gordon (S&G). Researchers questioned 1,975 women about their experiences in the workplace before and after giving birth. Most of the women had never filed any kind of complaint as they suspected it would be a waste of time and be even more detrimental to their career prospects. Grievances aired in the survey included mothers being overlooked for promotion, and more junior employees progressing faster up the career ladder. Another common gripe was their points of view being considered less worthy than those of colleagues without children.

The findings contrast with the opinions of managers and employers. A director at Britain's Confederation of British Industry (CBI) said: "We don't recognise the picture painted here. Our experience is that...businesses are better than ever at managing maternity leave and reintegrating mothers on their return." The UK's employment minister Jo Swinson said: "The government is committed to making sure that more businesses make the best use of women's talents throughout the organisation, from boardroom to the shop floor." S&G lawyer Kiran Daurka said: "It is shocking that so few women speak out when they suffer discrimination." She accused employers of avoiding the issues and of "burying their heads in the sand".

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-23600465>  
<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland/top-stories/discrimination-against-new-mothers-rife-1-3034121>  
<http://news.sky.com/story/1125885/one-in-four-mums-feel-work-discrimination>

# WARM-UPS

**1. DISCRIMINATION:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about discrimination. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*one in four / discriminated against / survey / giving birth / waste of time / career / opinions / maternity leave / committed / women's talents / avoiding the issues / sand*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. MATERNITY LEAVE:** What's best? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Good for Mum	Bad for Mum	Good for boss	Bad for boss
Before birth				
After birth				
Salary				
Creche				
Office mail				
Work at home				

**4. EQUALITY:** Students A **strongly** believe there will be equality in the workplace one day; Students B **strongly** believe there won't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. WOMEN'S TALENTS:** Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the ones women do better at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- manage companies
- drive
- cook
- give good advice
- be creative
- debate
- give advice
- be fair

**6. SURVEY:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'survey'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace\\_discrimination.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace_discrimination.html)

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a. Half of British mothers face discrimination at work.                  | T / F |
| b. A legal firm interviewed 19,750 working mothers.                      | T / F |
| c. Most of those interviewed had never complained about discrimination.  | T / F |
| d. Mothers complained about their opinions being less valuable.          | T / F |
| e. Employers and business leaders agreed with the survey's findings.     | T / F |
| f. A business leader said maternity leave is better than ever before.    | T / F |
| g. A lawyer isn't surprised women do not speak out about discrimination. | T / F |
| h. The lawyer said employers bury their heads in the sand.               | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. conducted      | a. acknowledge |
| 2. suspected      | b. opinions    |
| 3. grievances     | c. differ from |
| 4. points of view | d. carried out |
| 5. colleagues     | e. all over    |
| 6. contrast       | f. thought     |
| 7. recognise      | g. dodging     |
| 8. committed      | h. complaints  |
| 9. throughout     | i. coworkers   |
| 10. avoiding      | j. dedicated   |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                       |                             |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. More than one in                   | a. their career prospects   |
| 2. women had never filed              | b. considered less worthy   |
| 3. more detrimental to                | c. to the shop floor        |
| 4. progressing faster                 | d. any kind of complaint    |
| 5. their points of view being         | e. managing maternity leave |
| 6. businesses are better than ever at | f. four British mothers     |
| 7. make the best use                  | g. few women speak out      |
| 8. from boardroom                     | h. in the sand              |
| 9. It is shocking that so             | i. of women's talents       |
| 10. burying their heads               | j. up the career ladder     |

# GAP FILL

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace\\_discrimination.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace_discrimination.html)

More than one in four British mothers who have returned to work feel discriminated (1) \_\_\_\_\_. This is according to a survey conducted by the legal (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Slater and Gordon (S&G). Researchers questioned 1,975 women about their experiences in the workplace before and after (3) \_\_\_\_\_ birth. Most of the women had never filed any kind of complaint as they suspected it would be a waste of time and be even more (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to their career prospects. Grievances aired in the survey included mothers being (5) \_\_\_\_\_ for promotion, and more junior employees progressing faster up the career (6) \_\_\_\_\_. Another common (7) \_\_\_\_\_ was their points of view being considered less (8) \_\_\_\_\_ than those of colleagues without children.

*gripe*

*giving*

*overlooked*

*against*

*worthy*

*firm*

*ladder*

*detrimental*

The findings (9) \_\_\_\_\_ with the opinions of managers and employers. A director at Britain's Confederation of British Industry (CBI) said: "We don't recognise the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ painted here. Our experience is that...businesses are better than ever at managing maternity leave and (11) \_\_\_\_\_ mothers on their return." The UK's employment minister Jo Swinson said: "The government is (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to making sure that more businesses make the best use of women's talents (13) \_\_\_\_\_ the organisation, from boardroom to the shop floor." S&G lawyer Kiran Daurka said: "It is shocking that so (14) \_\_\_\_\_ women speak out when they (15) \_\_\_\_\_ discrimination." She accused employers of avoiding the issues and of "burying their (16) \_\_\_\_\_ in the sand".

*few*

*heads*

*picture*

*committed*

*suffer*

*contrast*

*throughout*

*reintegrating*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace\\_discrimination.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace_discrimination.html)

- 1) More than one in four British mothers who have returned to work \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. feel discriminated again
  - b. feel discriminated against
  - c. feel discriminated aghast
  - d. feel discriminated a gangster
- 2) Most of the women had never filed any \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. kind of compliant
  - b. kind of complainant
  - c. kind of complaint
  - d. kind of complaints
- 3) Grievances aired in the survey included mothers being \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. overbooked for promotion
  - b. overly looked for promotion
  - c. over looking for promotion
  - d. overlooked for promotion
- 4) more junior employees progressing faster up \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the career ladder
  - b. the career larder
  - c. the career bladder
  - d. the career ladders
- 5) their points of view being considered less worthy than \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. those of colleague
  - b. those of colleges
  - c. those of colleagues
  - d. those of colleague
- 6) The findings contrast with the opinions of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. managers and employer
  - b. managers and employees
  - c. managers and employers
  - d. managers and employs
- 7) businesses are better than ever at managing maternity leave and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. reintegrating mothers
  - b. reintegration mothers
  - c. reintegrated mothers
  - d. reintegrates mothers
- 8) committed to making sure that more businesses make the best use \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. of women's talons
  - b. of women's talents
  - c. of women's talent
  - d. of women's talented
- 9) It is shocking that so few women speak out when they \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. suffers discrimination
  - b. suffered discrimination
  - c. suffering discrimination
  - d. suffer discrimination
- 10) avoiding the issues and of "burying their \_\_\_\_\_"
  - a. heads in the sand
  - b. heads in the sandy
  - c. head in the sand
  - d. heads on the sand

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace\\_discrimination.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace_discrimination.html)

More (1) \_\_\_\_\_ British mothers who have returned to work feel discriminated against. This is according (2) \_\_\_\_\_ by the legal firm Slater and Gordon (S&G). Researchers questioned 1,975 women (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in the workplace before and after giving birth. Most of the women had (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of complaint as they suspected it would be a waste of time and be even more detrimental to their career prospects. Grievances (5) \_\_\_\_\_ included mothers being overlooked for promotion, and more junior employees progressing faster up the career ladder. Another common gripe was their points of view being (6) \_\_\_\_\_ than those of colleagues without children.

The findings contrast (7) \_\_\_\_\_ managers and employers. A director at Britain's Confederation of British Industry (CBI) said: "We don't recognise the picture painted here. Our (8) \_\_\_\_\_ businesses are better than ever at managing maternity leave and reintegrating (9) \_\_\_\_\_." The UK's employment minister Jo Swinson said: "The government is (10) \_\_\_\_\_ sure that more businesses make the best use of women's talents throughout the organisation, from boardroom to the shop floor." S&G lawyer Kiran Daurka said: "It is shocking (11) \_\_\_\_\_ speak out when they suffer discrimination." She accused employers of avoiding the issues and of "burying their (12) \_\_\_\_\_".

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace\\_discrimination.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace_discrimination.html)

1. How many British mothers feel discriminated against at work?

---

2. How many women took part in a survey?

---

3. What had most women never complained?

---

4. Who is getting promoted ahead of working mothers?

---

5. What do working mothers think isn't being valued?

---

6. Whose opinions are different to those found in the survey?

---

7. What did a director say was better than ever?

---

8. What does the UK government want to exploit?

---

9. How does Kiran Daurka feel about women not speaking out?

---

10. What are employers doing with their heads?

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# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace\\_discrimination.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace_discrimination.html)

1. How many British mothers feel discriminated against at work?
  - a) over 25%
  - b) 1,975
  - c) all of them
  - d) millions
2. How many women took part in a survey?
  - a) half
  - b) over 25%
  - c) 1,975
  - d) millions
3. What had most women never complained?
  - a) a tax return
  - b) letters
  - c) their nails
  - d) a complaint
4. Who is getting promoted ahead of working mothers?
  - a) older women
  - b) junior workers
  - c) part-time workers
  - d) working fathers
5. What do working mothers think isn't being valued?
  - a) their opinions
  - b) company shares
  - c) loyalty
  - d) babies and children
6. Whose opinions are different to those found in the survey?
  - a) mothers
  - b) lawyers
  - c) researchers
  - d) employers and companies
7. What did a director say was better than ever?
  - a) prospects for promotion
  - b) pay
  - c) maternity leave
  - d) integration of viewpoints
8. What does the UK government want to exploit?
  - a) women
  - b) women's talents
  - c) working mothers
  - d) businesses
9. How does Kiran Daurka feel about women not speaking out?
  - a) neutral
  - b) amazed
  - c) shocked
  - d) numbness
10. What are employers doing with their heads?
  - a) massaging them
  - b) burying them in the sand
  - c) getting them tested
  - d) banging them against a wall

# ROLE PLAY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace\\_discrimination.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace_discrimination.html)

## **Role A – Longer maternity leave**

You think longer maternity leave is most important for new working mothers. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): better creche facilities, working from home or financial support for baby.

## **Role B – Better creche facilities**

You think better creche facilities is new working mothers. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): longer maternity leave, working from home or financial support for baby.

## **Role C – Working from home**

You think working from home is new working mothers. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): better creche facilities, longer maternity leave or financial support for baby.

## **Role D – Financial support for baby**

You think financial support for baby is new working mothers. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): better creche facilities, working from home or longer maternity leave.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace\\_discrimination.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace_discrimination.html)

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'work' and 'place'.

<b>work</b>	<b>place</b>
-------------	--------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• four</li><li>• questioned</li><li>• birth</li><li>• waste</li><li>• junior</li><li>• worthy</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• contrast</li><li>• picture</li><li>• leave</li><li>• sure</li><li>• floor</li><li>• sand</li></ul>
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# DISCRIMINATION SURVEY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace\\_discrimination.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace_discrimination.html)

Write five GOOD questions about discrimination in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

# DISCRIMINATION DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'discrimination'?
- c) What do you think about working mothers being discriminated against?
- d) Should women complain more to bosses about discrimination?
- e) Why are working mothers discriminated against?
- f) Why would complaining be bad for a working mother's career?
- g) Should employers do more for working mothers?
- h) What do you think of people who say mothers should stay at home?
- i) Why would people devalue the opinions of a female colleague with a baby?
- j) Should childless colleagues stand up more for working mothers?

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# DISCRIMINATION DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Why does discrimination happen?
- c) What do working mothers need?
- d) Why do managers and employers not agree with the survey?
- e) What is the worst kind of discrimination?
- f) What is maternity (and paternity) leave like in your country?
- g) How long should maternity leave be?
- h) Have you ever been discriminated against?
- i) Why do managers bury their heads in the sand? Do you ever do this?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the director of Britain's CBI?

## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace\\_discrimination.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace_discrimination.html)

More than one (1) \_\_\_\_\_ four British mothers who have returned to work feel discriminated against. This is according (2) \_\_\_\_\_ a survey conducted by the legal firm Slater and Gordon (S&G). Researchers questioned 1,975 women about their experiences in the workplace before and after (3) \_\_\_\_\_ birth. Most of the women had never filed any kind of complaint as they suspected it would be a waste of time and be even more (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to their career prospects. Grievances aired in the survey included mothers being (5) \_\_\_\_\_ for promotion, and more junior employees progressing faster up the career ladder. Another common gripe was their points of view being considered less (6) \_\_\_\_\_ than those of colleagues without children.

The (7) \_\_\_\_\_ contrast with the opinions of managers and employers. A director at Britain's Confederation of British Industry (CBI) said: "We don't recognise the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ painted here. Our experience is that...businesses are better than ever at managing maternity leave and reintegrating mothers on their (9) \_\_\_\_\_." The UK's employment minister Jo Swinson said: "The government is committed (10) \_\_\_\_\_ making sure that more businesses make the best use of women's talents throughout the organisation, from boardroom to the shop floor." S&G lawyer Kiran Daurka said: "It is shocking that so (11) \_\_\_\_\_ women speak out when they suffer discrimination." She accused employers of avoiding the issues and of "burying their heads in the (12) \_\_\_\_\_".

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |                 |                |                 |                |
|-----|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) through     | (b) out        | (c) in          | (d) by         |
| 2.  | (a) to          | (b) of         | (c) by          | (d) at         |
| 3.  | (a) giving      | (b) gives      | (c) gave        | (d) given      |
| 4.  | (a) detrimental | (b) determined | (c) deferential | (d) diabolical |
| 5.  | (a) overworked  | (b) overlooked | (c) overcooked  | (d) overbooked |
| 6.  | (a) worthless   | (b) worthiness | (c) worth       | (d) worthy     |
| 7.  | (a) bargains    | (b) inventions | (c) findings    | (d) locations  |
| 8.  | (a) portrait    | (b) painting   | (c) sketch      | (d) picture    |
| 9.  | (a) return      | (b) departure  | (c) homecoming  | (d) yield      |
| 10. | (a) at          | (b) to         | (c) of          | (d) for        |
| 11. | (a) little      | (b) few        | (c) less        | (d) dearth     |
| 12. | (a) dune        | (b) beach      | (c) sand        | (d) shore      |

# SPELLING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace\\_discrimination.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace_discrimination.html)

## Paragraph 1

1. coadnrcig to a survey
2. tdlieaertmn to their career prospects
3. vcearsegni aired in the survey
4. being overlooked for irooopnmt
5. being considered less hryotw
6. geoescllau without children

## Paragraph 2

7. We don't csgeireno (UK) / egcrznioe (USA) the picture
8. metianyrt leave
9. naietgrteignr mothers on their return
10. The government is omictmdte to making sure...
11. she accused employers of givoaidn the issues
12. ynibgru their heads in the sand



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace\\_discrimination.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace_discrimination.html)

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) The findings contrast with the opinions of managers and employers. A director at Britain's Confederation
- ( **1** ) More than one in four British mothers who have returned to work feel discriminated
- ( ) talents throughout the organisation, from boardroom to the shop floor." S&G lawyer Kiran Daurka
- ( ) of British Industry (CBI) said: "We don't recognise the picture painted here. Our experience is that...businesses are better than
- ( ) minister Jo Swinson said: "The government is committed to making sure that more businesses make the best use of women's
- ( ) never filed any kind of complaint as they suspected it would be a waste of time and be even more
- ( ) said: "It is shocking that so few women speak out when they suffer discrimination." She accused
- ( ) against. This is according to a survey conducted by the legal firm Slater and Gordon (S&G). Researchers
- ( ) detrimental to their career prospects. Grievances aired in the survey included mothers being overlooked
- ( ) questioned 1,975 women about their experiences in the workplace before and after giving birth. Most of the women had
- ( ) gripe was their points of view being considered less worthy than those of colleagues without children.
- ( ) ever at managing maternity leave and reintegrating mothers on their return." The UK's employment
- ( ) for promotion, and more junior employees progressing faster up the career ladder. Another common
- ( ) employers of avoiding the issues and of "burying their heads in the sand".

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace\\_discrimination.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace_discrimination.html)

1. before in birth and the after workplace Experiences . giving

---

2. The never kind had any complaint women filed of.

---

3. career their to detrimental more Even prospects.

---

4. employees career progressing ladder faster up Junior the.

---

5. those of Less colleagues worthy without than children.

---

6. contrast managers with the The opinions findings of.

---

7. experience businesses than Our that better is are ever.

---

8. leave reintegrating maternity and mothers Managing.

---

9. women's the talents best use Businesses of make.

---

10. so speak It that women shocking few out is.

---

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace\\_discrimination.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace_discrimination.html)

More than one *in / by* four British mothers who have returned to work feel discriminated *for / against*. This is according *to / by* a survey conducted by the legal firm Slater and Gordon (S&G). Researchers questioned 1,975 women about their experiences in the workplace before and *after / post* giving birth. Most of the women had never *flied / filed* any kind of complaint as they *suspected / suspicion* it would be a waste of time and be even more detrimental to their career *respects / prospects*. Grievances *aired / earthed* in the survey included mothers being overlooked for promotion, and more junior employees progressing faster up the career *stairs / ladder*. Another common gripe was their points of view being considered less *worth / worthy* than those of colleagues without children.

The findings contrast *at / with* the opinions of managers and *employees / employers*. A director at Britain's Confederation of British Industry (CBI) said: "We don't recognise the *picture / portrait* painted here. Our experience is that...businesses are better than *ever / even* at managing *maternity / paternity* leave and reintegrating mothers on their *homecoming / return*." The UK's employment minister Jo Swinson said: "The government is committed to making *ensure / sure* that more businesses *make / do* the best use of women's talents throughout the organisation, from boardroom to the shop *ceiling / floor*." S&G lawyer Kiran Daurka said: "It is shocking that so few women speak out when they suffer discrimination." She accused employers of avoiding the issues and of "burying their heads in the *beach / sand*".

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace\\_discrimination.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace_discrimination.html)

M\_r\_ th\_n \_n\_ \_n f\_\_r Br\_t\_sh m\_th\_rs wh\_ h\_v\_  
r\_t\_rn\_d t\_ w\_rk f\_\_l d\_scr\_m\_n\_t\_d g\_\_nst. Th\_s \_s  
\_cc\_rdn\_g t\_ \_s\_rv\_y c\_nd\_ct\_d by th\_ l\_g\_l f\_rm  
Sl\_t\_r \_nd G\_rdn (S&G). R\_s\_\_rch\_rs q\_\_st\_\_nd  
1,975 w\_m\_n \_b\_\_t th\_\_r \_xp\_r\_\_nc\_s \_n th\_  
w\_rkpl\_c\_ b\_f\_r\_ \_nd \_ft\_r g\_v\_ng b\_rth. M\_st \_f th\_  
w\_m\_n h\_d n\_v\_r f\_l\_d \_ny k\_nd \_f c\_mpl\_\_nt \_s th\_y  
s\_sp\_ct\_d \_t w\_\_ld b\_\_ w\_st\_ \_f t\_m\_ \_nd b\_\_v\_n  
m\_r\_ d\_tr\_m\_nt\_l t\_ th\_\_r c\_r\_\_r pr\_sp\_cts.  
Gr\_\_v\_nc\_s \_\_r\_d \_n th\_ s\_rv\_y \_ncl\_d\_d m\_th\_rs  
b\_\_ng \_v\_rl\_\_k\_d f\_r pr\_m\_t\_\_n, \_nd m\_r\_ j\_n\_\_r  
\_mpl\_y\_\_s pr\_gr\_ss\_ng f\_st\_r \_p th\_ c\_r\_\_r l\_dd\_r.  
\_n th\_r c\_mm\_n gr\_p\_w\_s th\_\_r p\_\_nts \_f v\_\_w b\_\_ng  
c\_ns\_d\_r\_d l\_ss w\_rthy th\_n th\_s\_ \_f c\_ll\_\_g\_\_s  
w\_th\_\_t ch\_ldr\_n.

Th\_ f\_nd\_ngs c\_ntr\_st w\_th th\_ \_p\_n\_\_ns \_f m\_n\_g\_rs  
\_nd \_mpl\_y\_rs. \_d\_r\_ct\_r\_t Br\_t\_\_n's C\_nf\_d\_r\_t\_\_n  
\_f Br\_t\_sh \_nd\_stry (CB\_) s\_\_d: "W\_ d\_n't r\_c\_gn\_s\_  
th\_ p\_ct\_r\_ p\_\_nt\_d h\_r\_. \_\_r \_xp\_r\_\_nc\_ \_s  
th\_t...b\_s\_n\_ss\_s \_r b\_tt\_r th\_n \_v\_r\_t m\_n\_g\_ng  
m\_t\_rn\_ty l\_\_v\_ \_nd r\_\_nt\_gr\_t\_ng m\_th\_rs \_n th\_\_r  
r\_t\_rn." Th\_ \_K's \_mpl\_y\_m\_nt m\_n\_st\_r J\_ Sw\_n\_s\_n  
s\_\_d: "Th\_ g\_v\_rnm\_nt \_s c\_mm\_t\_t\_d t\_ m\_k\_ng s\_r\_  
th\_t m\_r\_ b\_s\_n\_ss\_s m\_k\_ th\_ b\_st \_s\_ \_f w\_m\_n's  
t\_l\_nts thr\_\_gh\_\_t th\_ \_rg\_n\_s\_t\_\_n, fr\_m b\_\_rdr\_\_m  
t\_ th\_ sh\_p fl\_\_r." S&G l\_wy\_r K\_r\_n D\_\_rk\_ s\_\_d: "\_t  
\_s sh\_ck\_ng th\_t s\_ f\_w w\_m\_n sp\_\_k \_\_t wh\_n th\_y  
s\_ff\_r\_d\_scr\_m\_n\_t\_\_n." Sh\_ \_cc\_s\_d \_mpl\_y\_rs \_f  
\_v\_\_d\_ng th\_ \_ss\_\_s \_nd \_f "b\_ry\_ng th\_\_r h\_\_ds \_n  
th\_ s\_\_nd".

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace\\_discrimination.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace_discrimination.html)

more than one in four british mothers who have returned to work feel discriminated against this is according to a survey conducted by the legal firm slater and gordon (s&g) researchers questioned 1975 women about their experiences in the workplace before and after giving birth most of the women had never filed any kind of complaint as they suspected it would be a waste of time and be even more detrimental to their career prospects grievances aired in the survey included mothers being overlooked for promotion and more junior employees progressing faster up the career ladder another common gripe was their points of view being considered less worthy than those of colleagues without children

the findings contrast with the opinions of managers and employers a director at britain's confederation of british industry (cbi) said "we don't recognise the picture painted here our experience is that...businesses are better than ever at managing maternity leave and reintegrating mothers on their return" the uk's employment minister jo swinson said "the government is committed to making sure that more businesses make the best use of women's talents throughout the organisation from boardroom to the shop floor" s&g lawyer kiran daurka said "it is shocking that so few women speak out when they suffer discrimination" she accused employers of avoiding the issues and of "burying their heads in the sand"

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace\\_discrimination.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1308/130810-workplace_discrimination.html)

More than one in four British mothers who have returned to work feel discriminated against. This is according to a survey conducted by the legal firm Slater and Gordon (S&G). Researchers questioned 1,975 women about their experiences in the workplace before and after giving birth. Most of the women had never filed any kind of complaint as they suspected it would be a waste of time and be even more detrimental to their career prospects. Grievances aired in the survey included mothers being overlooked for promotion, and more junior employees progressing faster up the career ladder. Another common gripe was their point of view being considered less worthy than those of colleagues without children. The findings contrast with the opinion of managers and employers. A director at Britain's Confederation of British Industry (CBI) said: "We don't recognise the picture painted here. Our experience is that... businesses are better than ever at managing maternity leave and reintegrating mothers on their return." The UK's employment minister Jo Swinson said: "The government is committed to making sure that more businesses make the best use of women's talent throughout the organisation, from boardroom to the shop floor." S&G lawyer Kiran Daurka said: "It is shocking that so few women speak out when they suffer discrimination." She accused employers of avoiding the issues and of "burying their heads in the sand".







# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about discrimination. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. DISCRIMINATION:** Make a poster about discrimination. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. WORKPLACE:** Write a magazine article about workplace discrimination for mothers. Include imaginary interviews with a mother who is being discriminated against, and her boss.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to a discrimination lawyer. Ask him/her three questions about workplace discrimination. Give him/her three ideas on how to reduce it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F    b F    c T    d T    e F    f T    g F    h T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. conducted      | a. carried out |
| 2. suspected      | b. thought     |
| 3. grievances     | c. complaints  |
| 4. points of view | d. opinions    |
| 5. colleagues     | e. coworkers   |
| 6. contrast       | f. differ from |
| 7. recognise      | g. acknowledge |
| 8. committed      | h. dedicated   |
| 9. throughout     | i. all over    |
| 10. avoiding      | j. dodging     |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. One in four
2. 1,975
3. A complaint (against discrimination)
4. Junior employees
5. Their opinions
6. Employers and managers
7. Companies managing maternity leave
8. Women's talents
9. Shocked
10. Burying them in the sand

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. a    2. c    3. d    4. b    5. a    6. d    7. c    8. b    9. c    10. b

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)