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Level 4

Venezuela introduces 2-day working week

29th April, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1604/160429-working-week-4.html>

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Please try the harder Level 5 and the 26–page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1604/160429-working-week-4.html>

Venezuela has taken a big step to deal with the country's energy problems. It told all state employees to work just two days a week. They were already on four days a week after Fridays became a no-work day. Around 2.8 million public workers will now have five days off a week. The president said: "We are going to have Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays as non-working days." Employees will still be paid in full, despite the shorter working week.

The government blames the crisis on droughts and on El Nino. The Guri region, home to the nation's biggest dam, was compared to a desert. Critics say bad management, a lack of investment and corruption are to blame. People are facing daily disruptions to their lives. Women have to use hair dryers less and shopping malls have to use their own electricity generators. Electricity is being rationed and the clocks went back to provide more evening sunlight.

Sources: <http://time.com/4308909/venezuela-two-day-work-week-energy-crisis/>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/04/27/pic--pub-venezuela-introduces-two-day-week-to-save-energy/>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-36145184>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1604/160429-working-week-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. taken a big | a. off a week |
| 2. deal with the country's | b. paid in full |
| 3. state | c. energy problems |
| 4. They were already on | d. million public workers |
| 5. Around 2.8 | e. working week |
| 6. have five days | f. step |
| 7. Employees will still be | g. four days a week |
| 8. despite the shorter | h. employees |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. The government blames the crisis | a. of investment |
| 2. home to the | b. rationed |
| 3. compared | c. disruptions to their lives |
| 4. a lack | d. went back |
| 5. People are facing daily | e. nation's biggest dam |
| 6. electricity | f. on droughts |
| 7. Electricity is being | g. to a desert |
| 8. the clocks | h. generators |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1604/160429-working-week-4.html>

Venezuela has taken a big (1) _____ the country's energy problems. (2) _____ employees to work just two days a week. They (3) _____ four days a week after Fridays became a no-work day. Around 2.8 million (4) _____ will now have five days off a week. The president said: "We are going to have Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays (5) _____ days." Employees will still be paid in full, (6) _____ working week.

The government (7) _____ on droughts and on El Nino. The Guri region, home to the nation's biggest dam, (8) _____ a desert. Critics say bad management, (9) _____ investment and corruption are to blame. People (10) _____ disruptions to their lives. Women have to use hair dryers less and shopping malls have (11) _____ electricity generators. Electricity is being rationed and the clocks went back (12) _____ evening sunlight.

THE WORKING WEEK SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1604/160429-working-week-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about the working week 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.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____
- g) _____
- h) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____
- g) _____
- h) _____

FREE WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1604/160429-working-week-4.html>

Write about **the working week** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.
