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## **Level 6**

### **Venezuela introduces 2-day working week**

**29th April, 2016**

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

The government in Venezuela has taken a drastic step to try and deal with the country's growing energy problems. It has initiated a two-day working week for all state employees. Public workers had already been working four days a week after officials made Fridays a no-work day two months ago. The country's 2.8 million public workers will now have five days off a week. President Nicolas Maduro addressed the nation in a televised statement, saying: "From tomorrow, for at least two weeks, we are going to have Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays as non-working days for the public sector." Employees were told they would still be paid in full, despite the greatly reduced working week.

The government is blaming the current energy crisis on droughts and El Nino weather patterns. Water levels in hydroelectric dams are dangerously low. Mr Maduro likened the Guri region, home to the nation's biggest dam, to a desert. Critics of the president say ineffective management, inadequate investment and corruption are behind the current mess. The country's 30 million people are facing daily disruptions to their lives. Women have been asked to use hair dryers less and shopping malls have to rely on their own electricity generators. Electricity is being rationed in most of the country. The president even turned the clocks back thirty minutes to provide half-an-hour of extra 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>

# WARM-UPS

**1. THE WORKING WEEK:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about the working week. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

*government / drastic / energy / employees / statement / public sector / working week / blaming / crisis / weather patterns / dams / management / corruption / rationed*

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

**3. SAVINGS:** What is the best way to save energy? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

|                | What we can do | How useful this would be |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Hair dryers    |                |                          |
| Shopping malls |                |                          |
| School         |                |                          |
| Solar cells    |                |                          |
| Cars           |                |                          |
| Night time     |                |                          |

**4. 2 DAYS:** Students A **strongly** believe it is best to work for two days a week ; Students B **strongly** believe five days is better. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. ENERGY:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best energy forms at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- coal
- hydroelectricity
- solar power
- wind power
- bio fuels
- wave power
- nuclear power
- hydrogen

**6. CRISIS:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "crisis". 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/1604/160429-working-week.html>

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

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a. An energy crisis has prompted a two-day working week in Venezuela. | T / F |
| b. All workers have been told they will now only work for two days.   | T / F |
| c. There are over three million public sector workers in Venezuela.   | T / F |
| d. Public employees will have to take a 20 per cent pay cut.          | T / F |
| e. Venezuela's government is blaming El Nino for the energy crisis.   | T / F |
| f. Venezuela's largest dam is now a desert.                           | T / F |
| g. The government has asked women to use hair dryers less.            | T / F |
| h. Venezuela's government has turned the clocks back to save energy.  | T / F |

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

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. step       | a. in spite of  |
| 2. initiated  | b. compared     |
| 3. addressed  | c. shortened    |
| 4. despite    | d. depend       |
| 5. reduced    | e. started      |
| 6. current    | f. insufficient |
| 7. likened    | g. measure      |
| 8. inadequate | h. additional   |
| 9. rely       | i. spoke to     |
| 10. extra     | j. present      |

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

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. taken a drastic                        | a. a televised statement      |
| 2. state                                  | b. in full                    |
| 3. addressed the nation in                | c. disruptions to their lives |
| 4. the public                             | d. step                       |
| 5. be paid                                | e. dangerously low            |
| 6. blaming the current energy crisis      | f. management                 |
| 7. Water levels in hydroelectric dams are | g. employees                  |
| 8. ineffective                            | h. clocks back                |
| 9. facing daily                           | i. sector                     |
| 10. turned the                            | j. on droughts                |

# GAP FILL

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

The government in Venezuela has taken a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ step to try and deal with the country's growing energy problems. It has initiated a two-day working week for all (2) \_\_\_\_\_ employees. Public workers had already been working four days a week after (3) \_\_\_\_\_ made Fridays a no-work day two months ago. The country's 2.8 million (4) \_\_\_\_\_ workers will now have five days off a week. President Nicolas Maduro addressed the nation in a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ statement, saying: "From tomorrow, for at (6) \_\_\_\_\_ two weeks, we are going to have Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays as non-working days for the public (7) \_\_\_\_\_." Employees were told they would still be paid in full, despite the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ reduced working week.

*officials*  
*drastic*  
*sector*  
*state*  
*televised*  
*greatly*  
*least*  
*public*

The government is (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the current energy crisis on droughts and El Nino weather patterns. Water (10) \_\_\_\_\_ in hydroelectric dams are dangerously low. Mr Maduro (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the Guri region, home to the nation's biggest dam, to a desert. Critics of the president say (12) \_\_\_\_\_ management, inadequate investment and corruption are behind the current (13) \_\_\_\_\_. The country's 30 million people are facing daily disruptions to their lives. Women have been asked to use hair dryers less and shopping malls have to (14) \_\_\_\_\_ on their own electricity generators. Electricity is being (15) \_\_\_\_\_ in most of the country. The president even turned the clocks back thirty minutes to provide half-an-hour of extra evening (16) \_\_\_\_\_.

*sunlight*  
*likened*  
*mess*  
*blaming*  
*rationed*  
*levels*  
*rely*  
*ineffective*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) It has initiated a two-day working week for \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. all stated employees
  - b. all states employees
  - c. all state employees
  - d. all straight employees
- 2) working four days a week after officials made Fridays a no-work day \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. two months past
  - b. two months hence
  - c. two months ago
  - d. two months before
- 3) President Nicolas Maduro addressed the nation in \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a televised statements
  - b. the televised statement
  - c. the televised statements
  - d. a televised statement
- 4) we are going to have Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays as non-working days for \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the publicly sector
  - b. the publicity sector
  - c. the public's sector
  - d. the public sector
- 5) Employees were told they would still \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. be paid in fully
  - b. be paid on full
  - c. be paid in full
  - d. be pay in full
- 6) The government is blaming the current energy \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. crisis on droughts
  - b. crisis on draughts
  - c. crisis on drifts
  - d. crisis on drafts
- 7) Water levels in hydroelectric dams are \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. dangerously low
  - b. dangerously lowly
  - c. dangerously lows
  - d. dangerously lows
- 8) inadequate investment and corruption are behind \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the currently mess
  - b. the current mess
  - c. the currency mess
  - d. the current messy
- 9) shopping malls have to \_\_\_\_\_ own
  - a. relay on their
  - b. really on their
  - c. rely on their
  - d. rally on their
- 10) turned the clocks back thirty minutes to provide half-an-hour of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. extras evening sunlight
  - b. extra even in sunlight
  - c. extras even in sunlight
  - d. extra evening sunlight

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

The government in Venezuela has taken (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to try and deal with the country's growing energy problems. It has initiated a two-day working week (2) \_\_\_\_\_ employees. Public workers had already been working four days a week (3) \_\_\_\_\_ Fridays a no-work day two months ago. The country's 2.8 million public workers will now have five days off a week. President Nicolas Maduro addressed the nation in a (4) \_\_\_\_\_, saying: "From tomorrow, for at least two weeks, we are going to have Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays as non-working days for (5) \_\_\_\_\_." Employees were told they would still be paid in full, (6) \_\_\_\_\_ reduced working week.

The government is (7) \_\_\_\_\_ energy crisis on droughts and El Nino weather patterns. Water levels in hydroelectric dams are (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Mr Maduro likened the Guri region, home to the nation's biggest dam, to a desert. Critics of the president say ineffective management, (9) \_\_\_\_\_ and corruption are behind the current mess. The country's 30 million people are facing daily disruptions to their lives. Women have (10) \_\_\_\_\_ hair dryers less and shopping malls have to rely on their own (11) \_\_\_\_\_. Electricity is being rationed in most of the country. The president even (12) \_\_\_\_\_ back thirty minutes to provide half-an-hour of extra evening sunlight.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. Who has taken a drastic step?

---

2. Who will now be working two days a week in Venezuela?

---

3. When did workers start having Fridays off in Venezuela?

---

4. How did Venezuela's president tell the nation?

---

5. What will happen to the pay of employees working two days a week?

---

6. What is the government blaming the energy crisis on besides El Nino?

---

7. What is in the region of Guri?

---

8. How many people are facing daily disruptions?

---

9. What are women being asked to use less?

---

10. What will turning the clocks back provide?

---



# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

1. Who has taken a drastic step?
  - a) hydroelectric power workers
  - b) critics
  - c) dam workers
  - d) Venezuela's government
2. Who will now be working two days a week in Venezuela?
  - a) Venezuela's president
  - b) public employees
  - c) everyone
  - d) weather forecasters
3. When did workers start having Fridays off in Venezuela?
  - a) last week
  - b) they haven't yet
  - c) last year
  - d) two months ago
4. How did Venezuela's president tell the nation?
  - a) in a newspaper
  - b) on the Internet
  - c) on TV
  - d) on radio
5. What will happen to the pay of employees working two days a week?
  - a) it will be reduced by 10 per cent
  - b) it will be cut in half
  - c) they will be paid for two days
  - d) they'll be paid in full
6. What is the government blaming the energy crisis on besides El Nino?
  - a) drafts
  - b) drifts
  - c) droughts
  - d) draughts
7. What is in the region of Guri?
  - a) Venezuela's largest dam
  - b) the parliament building
  - c) a weather forecasting company
  - d) an energy company
8. How many people are facing daily disruptions?
  - a) 13,000,000
  - b) 3,000,000
  - c) 30,000,000
  - d) 33,000,000
9. What are women being asked to use less?
  - a) trains
  - b) hair dryers
  - c) the telephone
  - d) microwave ovens
10. What will turning the clocks back provide?
  - a) more sunlight
  - b) more time
  - c) more money
  - d) more energy

# ROLE PLAY

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

## **Role A – Solar**

You think solar is the best form of power. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their forms aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): nuclear, biofuels or wind.

## **Role B – Nuclear**

You think nuclear is the best form of power. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their forms aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): solar, biofuels or wind.

## **Role C – Biofuel**

You think biofuel is the best form of power. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their forms aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): nuclear, solar or wind.

## **Role D – Wind**

You think wind is the best form of power. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their forms aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): nuclear, biofuels or solar.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| <b>work</b> | <b>week</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>• taken</li><li>• already</li><li>• 2.8</li><li>• televised</li><li>• tomorrow</li><li>• greatly</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• blaming</li><li>• region</li><li>• home</li><li>• mess</li><li>• own</li><li>• half</li></ul> |
|--|---|

# THE WORKING WEEK SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1604/160429-working-week.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<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 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.

# THE WORKING WEEK DISCUSSION

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

- 1) What did you think when you read the headline?
- 2) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'crisis'?
- 3) What do you think about what you read?
- 4) What is the best number of days to work?
- 5) What energy problems does your country have?
- 6) Is a two-day working week a good idea?
- 7) Do you think the two-day week will help solve the energy crisis?
- 8) How can a country operate if the public sector is on two days a week?
- 9) What advice do you have for Venezuela's president?
- 10) Why do you think Venezuela decided on two days and not three?

*Venezuela introduces 2-day working week – 29th April, 2016*  
More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com)

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# THE WORKING WEEK DISCUSSION

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

- 11) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- 12) What problems will there be with a two-day working week?
- 13) If El Nino is to blame, why aren't neighbouring countries affected?
- 14) What problems does an energy crisis create?
- 15) What would you do if there was no power in your town?
- 16) What do you think of asking women to reduce hair dryer use?
- 17) What can Venezuela do to solve its crisis?
- 18) Is turning the clock back 30 minutes a good idea?
- 19) Should other countries follow Venezuela's example?
- 20) What questions would you like to ask Venezuela's president?

# 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/1604/160429-working-week.html>

The government in Venezuela has taken a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ step to try and deal with the country's growing energy problems. It has (2) \_\_\_\_\_ a two-day working week for all state employees. Public workers had (3) \_\_\_\_\_ been working four days a week after officials made Fridays a no-work day two months ago. The country's 2.8 million public workers will now have five days off a week. President Nicolas Maduro (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the nation in a televised statement, saying: "From tomorrow, for (5) \_\_\_\_\_ least two weeks, we are going to have Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays as non-working days for the public sector." Employees were told they would still be paid (6) \_\_\_\_\_ full, despite the greatly reduced working week.

The government is (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the current energy crisis on droughts and El Nino weather patterns. Water levels in hydroelectric dams are dangerously low. Mr Maduro (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the Guri region, home to the nation's biggest dam, to a desert. Critics of the president say ineffective management, inadequate investment and corruption are (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the current mess. The country's 30 million people are (10) \_\_\_\_\_ daily disruptions to their lives. Women have been asked to use hair dryers less and shopping malls have to (11) \_\_\_\_\_ on their own electricity generators. Electricity is being rationed in most of the country. The president even (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the clocks back thirty minutes to provide half-an-hour of extra evening sunlight.

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

- |     |                 |               |               |                 |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | (a) mastic      | (b) drastic   | (c) caustic   | (d) majestic    |
| 2.  | (a) intimated   | (b) initiated | (c) initialed | (d) intimidated |
| 3.  | (a) ever        | (b) yet       | (c) still     | (d) already     |
| 4.  | (a) mailed      | (b) addressed | (c) stamped   | (d) phoned      |
| 5.  | (a) a           | (b) most      | (c) the       | (d) at          |
| 6.  | (a) on          | (b) to        | (c) in        | (d) to          |
| 7.  | (a) blaming     | (b) blooming  | (c) beaming   | (d) bemoaning   |
| 8.  | (a) comparative | (b) disliked  | (c) likened   | (d) loved       |
| 9.  | (a) fronted     | (b) sided     | (c) ahead     | (d) behind      |
| 10. | (a) facing      | (b) heading   | (c) nosing    | (d) necking     |
| 11. | (a) rely        | (b) really    | (c) rally     | (d) relay       |
| 12. | (a) turned      | (b) switched  | (c) levered   | (d) twisted     |

# SPELLING

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

## Paragraph 1

1. taken a saditrc step
2. It has ttdaeinii a two-day working week
3. all state epmleyose
4. clfisaifo made Fridays a no-work day
5. a televised ttmsntae
6. the public rsocte

## Paragraph 2

7. blaming the current energy crisis on uhtrodsg
8. the Guri enigor
9. aqdiuatnee investment
10. people are facing daily iuprtsdnoi
11. their own electricity sgreanotre
12. Electricity is being rnaodtie



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| ( )          | working four days a week after officials made Fridays a no-work day two months ago. The country's 2.8 million public |
| ( )          | the clocks back thirty minutes to provide half-an-hour of extra evening sunlight.                                    |
| ( )          | The government is blaming the current energy crisis on droughts and El Nino weather patterns. Water                  |
| ( )          | as non-working days for the public sector." Employees were told they would still                                     |
| ( )          | workers will now have five days off a week. President Nicolas Maduro addressed the nation in a televised             |
| ( )          | levels in hydroelectric dams are dangerously low. Mr Maduro likened the Guri region, home to the nation's biggest    |
| ( <b>1</b> ) | The government in Venezuela has taken a drastic step to try and deal with the country's growing energy               |
| ( )          | corruption are behind the current mess. The country's 30 million people are facing daily disruptions to their        |
| ( )          | dam, to a desert. Critics of the president say ineffective management, inadequate investment and                     |
| ( )          | generators. Electricity is being rationed in most of the country. The president even turned                          |
| ( )          | lives. Women have been asked to use hair dryers less and shopping malls have to rely on their own electricity        |
| ( )          | be paid in full, despite the greatly reduced working week.   |
| ( )          | statement, saying: "From tomorrow, for at least two weeks, we are going to have Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays    |
| ( )          | problems. It has initiated a two-day working week for all state employees. Public workers had already been           |

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. in taken step government has drastic The Venezuela a .

---

2. with growing deal country's problems and the energy Try .

---

3. a week Public workers had already been working four days .

---

4. have five days off a week Public workers will now .

---

5. would still be paid in full Employees were told they .

---

6. on droughts and El Nino Blaming the current energy crisis .

---

7. levels are Water dams hydroelectric low in dangerously .

---

8. are their facing lives daily disruptions People to .

---

9. been use less have to dryers Women asked hair .

---

10. minutes president the thirty The turned back even clocks .

---

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

The government in Venezuela has taken a *drastically / drastic* step to try and deal with the country's growing *energetic / energy* problems. It has *initiated / inundated* a two-day working week for all *static / state* employees. Public workers had already been working four days a week after *officials / officially* made Fridays a no-work day two months ago. The country's 2.8 million public workers will now have five days off *a / the* week. President Nicolas Maduro addressed the nation in a televised *stated / statement*, saying: "From tomorrow, for at *last / least* two weeks, we are going to have Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays as non-working days for the *public / publicly* sector." Employees were told they would still be paid in full, despite the *great / greatly* reduced working week.

The government is blaming the current energy crisis *in / on* droughts and El Nino weather *patterns / patterned*. Water levels in hydroelectric dams are dangerously low. Mr Maduro *likening / likened* the Guri region, home to the nation's biggest dam, to a desert. Critics of the president *say / says* ineffective management, inadequate investment and *corrupt / corruption* are behind the current *messy / mess*. The country's 30 million people are facing *daily / day* disruptions to their lives. Women have been asked to use hair dryers less and shopping malls have to *relay / rely* on their own electricity generators. Electricity is being rationed *in / on* most of the country. The president even turned the *clocks / watches* back thirty minutes to provide half-an-hour of extra evening sunlight.

**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/1604/160429-working-week.html>

Th\_ g\_ v\_ rnm\_ nt \_ n V\_ n\_ z\_ \_ l\_ h\_ s\_ t\_ k\_ n\_ \_ dr\_ st\_ c\_ st\_ p\_ t\_ try\_ \_ nd\_ d\_ \_ l\_ w\_ th\_ th\_ c\_ \_ ntry's gr\_ w\_ ng\_ \_ n\_ rgy\_ pr\_ bl\_ ms. \_ t\_ h\_ s\_ \_ n\_ t\_ \_ t\_ d\_ \_ tw\_ -d\_ y\_ w\_ rk\_ ng\_ w\_ \_ k\_ f\_ r\_ \_ ll\_ st\_ t\_ \_ mpl\_ y\_ \_ s. P\_ bl\_ c\_ w\_ rk\_ rs\_ h\_ d\_ \_ lr\_ \_ dy\_ b\_ \_ n\_ w\_ rk\_ ng\_ f\_ \_ r\_ d\_ ys\_ \_ w\_ \_ k\_ \_ ft\_ r\_ \_ ff\_ c\_ \_ ls\_ m\_ d\_ Fr\_ d\_ ys\_ \_ n\_ -w\_ rk\_ d\_ y\_ tw\_ \_ m\_ nth\_ s\_ \_ g\_ . Th\_ c\_ \_ ntry's 2.8 m\_ ll\_ \_ n\_ p\_ bl\_ c\_ w\_ rk\_ rs\_ w\_ ll\_ n\_ w\_ h\_ v\_ \_ f\_ v\_ \_ d\_ ys\_ \_ ff\_ \_ w\_ \_ k. Pr\_ s\_ d\_ nt\_ N\_ c\_ l\_ s\_ M\_ d\_ r\_ \_ \_ ddr\_ ss\_ d\_ th\_ n\_ t\_ \_ n\_ \_ n\_ \_ t\_ l\_ v\_ s\_ d\_ st\_ t\_ m\_ nt, s\_ y\_ ng: "Fr\_ m\_ t\_ m\_ rr\_ w, f\_ r\_ \_ t\_ l\_ \_ st\_ tw\_ \_ w\_ \_ ks, w\_ \_ \_ r\_ g\_ \_ ng\_ t\_ h\_ v\_ \_ W\_ dn\_ sd\_ ys, Th\_ rsd\_ ys\_ \_ nd\_ Fr\_ d\_ ys\_ \_ s\_ n\_ n\_ w\_ rk\_ ng\_ d\_ ys\_ f\_ r\_ th\_ p\_ bl\_ c\_ s\_ ct\_ r." \_ mpl\_ y\_ \_ s\_ w\_ r\_ t\_ ld\_ th\_ y\_ w\_ \_ ld\_ st\_ ll\_ b\_ \_ p\_ \_ d\_ \_ n\_ f\_ ll, d\_ sp\_ t\_ th\_ gr\_ \_ tly\_ r\_ d\_ c\_ d\_ w\_ rk\_ ng\_ w\_ \_ k.

Th\_ g\_ v\_ rnm\_ nt\_ \_ s\_ bl\_ m\_ ng\_ th\_ c\_ rr\_ nt\_ \_ n\_ rgy\_ cr\_ s\_ s\_ \_ n\_ dr\_ \_ ghts\_ \_ nd\_ \_ l\_ N\_ n\_ \_ w\_ \_ th\_ r\_ p\_ tt\_ rns. W\_ t\_ r\_ l\_ v\_ ls\_ \_ n\_ hydr\_ \_ l\_ ctr\_ c\_ d\_ ms\_ \_ r\_ d\_ ng\_ r\_ \_ sly\_ l\_ w. Mr\_ M\_ d\_ r\_ l\_ k\_ n\_ d\_ th\_ G\_ r\_ r\_ g\_ \_ n, h\_ m\_ t\_ th\_ n\_ t\_ \_ n's\_ b\_ gg\_ st\_ d\_ m, t\_ \_ \_ d\_ s\_ rt. Cr\_ t\_ cs\_ \_ f\_ th\_ pr\_ s\_ d\_ nt\_ s\_ y\_ \_ n\_ ff\_ ct\_ v\_ \_ m\_ n\_ g\_ m\_ nt, \_ n\_ d\_ q\_ \_ t\_ \_ nv\_ stm\_ nt\_ \_ nd\_ c\_ rr\_ pt\_ \_ n\_ \_ r\_ b\_ h\_ nd\_ th\_ c\_ rr\_ nt\_ m\_ ss. Th\_ c\_ \_ ntry's 30 m\_ ll\_ \_ n\_ p\_ \_ pl\_ \_ r\_ \_ f\_ c\_ ng\_ d\_ \_ ly\_ d\_ sr\_ pt\_ \_ ns\_ t\_ th\_ \_ r\_ l\_ v\_ s. W\_ m\_ n\_ h\_ v\_ \_ b\_ \_ n\_ \_ sk\_ d\_ t\_ \_ s\_ h\_ \_ r\_ dry\_ rs\_ l\_ ss\_ \_ nd\_ sh\_ pp\_ ng\_ m\_ lls\_ h\_ v\_ \_ t\_ r\_ ly\_ \_ n\_ th\_ \_ r\_ \_ wn\_ \_ l\_ ctr\_ c\_ ty\_ g\_ n\_ r\_ t\_ rs. \_ l\_ ctr\_ c\_ ty\_ \_ s\_ b\_ \_ ng\_ r\_ t\_ \_ n\_ d\_ \_ n\_ m\_ st\_ \_ f\_ th\_ c\_ \_ ntry. Th\_ pr\_ s\_ d\_ nt\_ \_ v\_ n\_ t\_ rn\_ d\_ th\_ cl\_ cks\_ b\_ ck\_ th\_ rty\_ m\_ n\_ t\_ s\_ t\_ pr\_ v\_ d\_ h\_ lf\_ \_ n\_ h\_ \_ r\_ \_ f\_ xtr\_ \_ \_ v\_ n\_ ng\_ s\_ nl\_ ght.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

the government in venezuela has taken a drastic step to try and deal with the country's growing energy problems it has initiated a two-day working week for all state employees public workers had already been working four days a week after officials made fridays a no-work day two months ago the country's 28 million public workers will now have five days off a week president nicolas maduro addressed the nation in a televised statement saying "from tomorrow for at least two weeks we are going to have wednesdays thursdays and fridays as non-working days for the public sector" employees were told they would still be paid in full despite the greatly reduced working week

the government is blaming the current energy crisis on droughts and el nino weather patterns water levels in hydroelectric dams are dangerously low mr maduro likened the guri region home to the nation's biggest dam to a desert critics of the president say ineffective management inadequate investment and corruption are behind the current mess the country's 30 million people are facing daily disruptions to their lives women have been asked to use hair dryers less and shopping malls have to rely on their own electricity generators electricity is being rationed in most of the country the president even turned the clocks back thirty minutes to provide half-an-hour of extra evening sunlight

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

The government in Venezuela has taken a drastic step to try and deal with the country's growing energy problems. It has initiated a two-day working week for all state employees. Public workers had already been working four days a week after officials made Fridays a non-working day two months ago. The country's 2.8 million public workers will now have five days off a week. President Nicolas Maduro addressed the nation in a televised statement, saying: "From tomorrow, for at least two weeks, we are going to have Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays as non-working days for the public sector." Employees were told they would still be paid in full, despite the greatly reduced working week. The government is blaming the current energy crisis on droughts and El Niño weather patterns. Water levels in hydroelectric dams are dangerously low. Mr Maduro likened the Guárico region, home to the nation's biggest dam, to a desert. Critics of the president say ineffective management, inadequate investment and corruption are behind the current mess. The country's 30 million people are facing daily disruption to their lives. Women have been asked to use hair dryerless and shopping malls have to rely on their own electricity generators. Electricity is being rationed in most of the country. The president even turned the clocks back thirty minutes to provide half-an-hour of extra evening sunlight.







# 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 Venezuela's two-day working week. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. THE WORKING WEEK:** Make a poster about the working week. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. ENERGY CRISES:** Write a magazine article about dealing with energy crises by shortening the working week. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

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 an expert on the working week. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on the best number of days to work in a week. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. step       | a. measure      |
| 2. initiated  | b. started      |
| 3. addressed  | c. spoke to     |
| 4. despite    | d. in spite of  |
| 5. reduced    | e. shortened    |
| 6. current    | f. present      |
| 7. likened    | g. compared     |
| 8. inadequate | h. insufficient |
| 9. rely       | i. depend       |
| 10. extra     | j. additional   |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Venezuela's government
2. Public employees
3. Two months ago
4. In a televised statement
5. They will be paid in full
6. Droughts
7. Venezuela's biggest dam
8. 30 million people
9. Hair dryers
10. Extra sunlight

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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