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## **Level 6**

### **Swiss vote no to free monthly income for all**

**8th June, 2016**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1606/160608-basic-income.html>

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**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1606/160608-basic-income.html>

Voters in Switzerland have overwhelmingly rejected a proposal that would have meant introducing a guaranteed basic monthly income for all citizens. The referendum took place on Sunday and resulted in almost 77 per cent of voters opposing the plan. The idea was to provide a minimum salary to those who have been a citizen for at least five years, whether they worked or not. It was suggested the monthly amount could be around \$2,500. The group behind the proposal argued that the initiative was necessary to overhaul Switzerland's social welfare system. A spokesperson said it would help fight poverty and inequality. He added that it would provide a top-up for people who earned less than the minimum wage.

Supporters of the plan argued that because work was becoming increasingly automated across Switzerland, there were fewer jobs available for workers. Che Wagner from the campaign group Basic Income Switzerland argued that the monthly income would not be money for nothing. He said: "In Switzerland, over 50 per cent of total work that is done is unpaid. It's care work. It's at home. It's in different communities, so that work would be more valued with a basic income." Opponents said it would cause the country many immigration problems. Luzi Stamm from the Swiss People's Party said: "You would have billions of people who would try to move into Switzerland."

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36454060>  
<http://money.cnn.com/2016/06/05/news/economy/switzerland-basic-income-referendum/>  
[http://www.expatica.com/ch/news/Swiss-say-no-thanks-to-basic-income-for-all\\_696861.html](http://www.expatica.com/ch/news/Swiss-say-no-thanks-to-basic-income-for-all_696861.html)

# WARM-UPS

**1. MONTHLY SALARY:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about monthly salary. 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?

voters / rejected / proposal / income / referendum / minimum / salary / welfare / supporters / automated / workers / Switzerland / communities / opponents / billions

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

**3. EQUAL PAY:** Students A **strongly** believe everyone should get the same salary; Students B **strongly** believe this would be stupid. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. MINIMUM:** What should be the minimum that a country gives its citizens? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Who gets it?	Minimum?	Maximum?
Salary			
Unemployment benefit			
Healthcare			
Education			
Housing			
Business start-up help			

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

**6. FREE:** Rank these with your partner. Put the things a government should provide for free at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- healthcare
- school milk
- passports
- university education
- housing for the homeless
- bus passes for the elderly
- water
- Internet

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1606/160608-basic-income.html>

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

- a. Nearly 77% of Swiss voters voted no to a free salary for all. **T / F**
- b. The scheme was only for Swiss people who are citizens by birth. **T / F**
- c. The suggested free monthly salary was around \$2,500. **T / F**
- d. People who were already working would not get any of the salary. **T / F**
- e. Supporters argued that automation meant a free salary was necessary. **T / F**
- f. A campaign group said the money would not be for nothing. **T / F**
- g. The group said 25% of all work done in Switzerland was unpaid. **T / F**
- h. The Swiss People's Party said millions would move to Switzerland. **T / F**

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

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. rejected     | a. revamp         |
| 2. referendum   | b. free           |
| 3. initiative   | c. was paid       |
| 4. overhaul     | d. more and more  |
| 5. earned       | e. plan           |
| 6. supporters   | f. neighbourhoods |
| 7. increasingly | g. said no to     |
| 8. unpaid       | h. complications  |
| 9. communities  | i. public vote    |
| 10. problems    | j. backers        |

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

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. overwhelmingly                           | a. welfare system      |
| 2. provide a minimum                        | b. the minimum wage    |
| 3. overhaul Switzerland's social            | c. problems            |
| 4. help fight poverty                       | d. of people           |
| 5. a top-up for people who earned less than | e. salary              |
| 6. work was becoming increasingly           | f. rejected a proposal |
| 7. money for                                | g. work                |
| 8. It's care                                | h. automated           |
| 9. immigration                              | i. nothing             |
| 10. billions                                | j. and inequality      |

# GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1606/160608-basic-income.html>

Voters in Switzerland have overwhelmingly rejected a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ that would have meant introducing a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ basic monthly income for all citizens. The referendum took place on Sunday and resulted in almost 77 per cent of voters (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the plan. The idea was to provide a minimum salary to those who have been a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ for at least five years, whether they worked or not. It was suggested the monthly amount could be around \$2,500. The group (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the proposal argued that the initiative was necessary to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ Switzerland's social welfare system. A spokesperson said it would help fight (7) \_\_\_\_\_ and inequality. He added that it would provide a top-up for people who (8) \_\_\_\_\_ less than the minimum wage.

*citizen*  
*poverty*  
*proposal*  
*opposing*  
*earned*  
*guaranteed*  
*overhaul*  
*behind*

Supporters of the plan argued that because work was becoming (9) \_\_\_\_\_ automated across Switzerland, there were fewer jobs available for workers. Che Wagner from the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ group Basic Income Switzerland argued that the monthly income would not be money for (11) \_\_\_\_\_. He said: "In Switzerland, over 50 per cent of total work that is done is (12) \_\_\_\_\_. It's care work. It's at home. It's in different (13) \_\_\_\_\_, so that work would be more (14) \_\_\_\_\_ with a basic income." Opponents said it would cause the country many (15) \_\_\_\_\_ problems. Luzi Stamm from the Swiss People's Party said: "You would have (16) \_\_\_\_\_ of people who would try to move into Switzerland."

*unpaid*  
*increasingly*  
*valued*  
*communities*  
*nothing*  
*immigration*  
*campaign*  
*billions*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1606/160608-basic-income.html>

- 1) Voters in Switzerland have overwhelmingly \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. rejected the proposal
  - b. rejection a proposal
  - c. rejected a proposal
  - d. reject it a proposal
- 2) took place on Sunday and resulted in almost 77 per cent of voters \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. oppose in the plan
  - b. opposed in a plan
  - c. opposing a plan
  - d. opposing the plan
- 3) those who have been a citizen for at least five years, whether they \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. worked or not
  - b. worked nor not
  - c. worked or not nor
  - d. worked or no
- 4) the initiative was necessary to overhaul Switzerland's social \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. well fare system
  - b. welfare systems
  - c. welfare system
  - d. well fair systems
- 5) it would provide a top-up for people who earned less than \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the minimal wage
  - b. the minimum waged
  - c. a minimum wage
  - d. the minimum wage
- 6) Supporters of the plan argued that because work was becoming \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. increasingly automated
  - b. increasingly automate it
  - c. increasing automated
  - d. increasingly automates it
- 7) argued that the monthly income would not be \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. money for no thing
  - b. money for something
  - c. money for nothing
  - d. money for some thing
- 8) In Switzerland, over 50 per cent of total work that is \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. done is non-paid
  - b. done is unpaid
  - c. done was unpaid
  - d. done was non-paid
- 9) It's in different communities, so that work would be more valued with \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a basic income
  - b. a basics income
  - c. a basically income
  - d. a bay sick income
- 10) You would have billions of people who would try to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. move onto Switzerland
  - b. move unto Switzerland
  - c. moving to Switzerland
  - d. move into Switzerland

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1606/160608-basic-income.html>

Voters in Switzerland have overwhelmingly (1) \_\_\_\_\_ that would have meant introducing a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ monthly income for all citizens. The referendum took place on Sunday and resulted in almost 77 per cent (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the plan. The idea was to provide a minimum salary to those who have (4) \_\_\_\_\_ at least five years, whether they worked or not. It was suggested the monthly amount could be around \$2,500. The group behind the proposal argued that the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to overhaul Switzerland's social welfare system. A spokesperson said it would help fight poverty and inequality. He added that it would provide a top-up for people (6) \_\_\_\_\_ than the minimum wage.

Supporters of the plan argued that because work was becoming increasingly (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Switzerland, there were fewer jobs available for workers. Che Wagner from (8) \_\_\_\_\_ Basic Income Switzerland argued that the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ would not be money for nothing. He said: "In Switzerland, over 50 per cent of total work that is done is unpaid. It's care work. It's at home. It's in (10) \_\_\_\_\_, so that work would be more valued with a basic income." Opponents said it would cause the country (11) \_\_\_\_\_ problems. Luzi Stamm from the Swiss People's Party said: "You would have (12) \_\_\_\_\_ who would try to move into Switzerland."

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1606/160608-basic-income.html>

1. What did voters reject that was guaranteed every month?
2. What percentage of voters opposed the plan?
3. What was it suggested the monthly salary would be?
4. What did someone say the plan was to overhaul in Switzerland?
5. What did a supporter say the income would fight, besides inequality?
6. What did supporters say was becoming increasingly automated?
7. What did a campaign group say the money would not be for?
8. How much work in Switzerland did a campaigner say was unpaid?
9. What kind of problems did the Swiss People's Party predict?
10. How many people did a party say would move to Switzerland?



# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1606/160608-basic-income.html>

- 1) What did voters reject that was guaranteed every month?
  - a) a referendum
  - b) monthly income
  - c) a vote
  - d) a job
- 2) What percentage of voters opposed the plan?
  - a) around 77%
  - b) just over 77%
  - c) exactly 77%
  - d) nearly 77%
- 3) What was it suggested the monthly salary would be?
  - a) about \$2,500
  - b) just over \$2,500
  - c) exactly \$2,500
  - d) just under \$2,500
- 4) What did someone say the plan was to overhaul in Switzerland?
  - a) basic income
  - b) all social problems
  - c) the social welfare system
  - d) unemployment
- 5) What did a supporter say the income would fight, besides inequality?
  - a) privacy
  - b) poverty
  - c) property
  - d) puberty
- 6) What did supporters say was becoming increasingly automated?
  - a) workers
  - b) campaigns
  - c) work
  - d) robots
- 7) What did a campaign group say the money would not be for?
  - a) home
  - b) care work
  - c) non-Swiss
  - d) nothing
- 8) How much work in Switzerland did a campaigner say was unpaid?
  - a) more than half
  - b) three-quarters
  - c) two-fifths
  - d) two-thirds
- 9) What kind of problems did the Swiss People's Party predict?
  - a) immigration problems
  - b) opponents' problems
  - c) financial problems
  - d) monthly problems
- 10) How many people did a party say would move to Switzerland?
  - a) millions
  - b) billions
  - c) trillions
  - d) quadrillions

# ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1606/160608-basic-income.html>

## **Role A – Lunch for school kids**

You think lunch for school kids is the most important thing governments should provide for free. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): healthcare, housing for the homeless or the Internet.

## **Role B – Healthcare**

You think healthcare is the most important thing governments should provide for free. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): lunch for school kids, housing for the homeless or the Internet.

## **Role C – Housing for the homeless**

You think housing for the homeless is the most important thing governments should provide for free. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): healthcare, lunch for school kids or the Internet.

## **Role D – The Internet**

You think the Internet is the most important thing governments should provide for free. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): healthcare, housing for the homeless or lunch for school kids.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1606/160608-basic-income.html>

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

<b>monthly</b>	<b>income</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>• meant</li><li>• resulted</li><li>• those</li><li>• around</li><li>• system</li><li>• less</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• across</li><li>• group</li><li>• nothing</li><li>• total</li><li>• cause</li><li>• move</li></ul>
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# MONTHLY SALARY SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1606/160608-basic-income.html>

Write five GOOD questions about monthly salary 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.

# MONTHLY SALARY 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 'salary'?
3. What do you think about what you read?
4. Why do you think voters rejected the proposal?
5. Is a guaranteed monthly state income a good idea?
6. How happy would you be at getting a \$2,500 monthly salary for free?
7. Is it better to give people a salary or give them welfare payments?
8. What are salaries like in your country?
9. What's the best way to deal with income inequality?
10. What advice do you have for supporters of this plan?

*Swiss vote no to free monthly income for all – 8th June, 2016*  
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# MONTHLY SALARY DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What problems does automating jobs create?
13. What do you think of robots doing all the work and people getting paid?
14. Should everyone get the same salary, whatever his/her job?
15. Should people get paid for housework and looking after elderly parents?
16. Is there such a thing as 'money for nothing'?
17. What things should a basic income cover?
18. Would Switzerland have immigration problems if it introduced the plan?
19. How should governments help poorer-paid people?
20. What questions would you like to ask those who said no?

# 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/1606/160608-basic-income.html>

Voters in Switzerland have (1) \_\_\_\_\_ rejected a proposal that would have meant introducing a guaranteed (2) \_\_\_\_\_ monthly income for all citizens. The referendum took place on Sunday and resulted in almost 77 per cent of voters opposing the plan. The idea was to provide a minimum salary to (3) \_\_\_\_\_ who have been a citizen for at least five years, whether they worked or not. It was suggested the monthly (4) \_\_\_\_\_ could be around \$2,500. The group behind the proposal argued that the initiative was necessary to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ Switzerland's social welfare system. A spokesperson said it would help fight poverty and inequality. He added that it would provide a top-up for people who (6) \_\_\_\_\_ less than the minimum wage.

Supporters of the plan argued that because work was becoming increasingly (7) \_\_\_\_\_ across Switzerland, there were fewer jobs available for workers. Che Wagner from the campaign group Basic Income Switzerland argued that the monthly income would not be money for (8) \_\_\_\_\_. He said: "In Switzerland, over 50 per cent of total work that is done is (9) \_\_\_\_\_. It's care work. It's at home. It's in different (10) \_\_\_\_\_, so that work would be more valued with a basic income." Opponents said it would (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the country many immigration problems. Luzi Stamm from the Swiss People's Party said: "You would have (12) \_\_\_\_\_ of people who would try to move into Switzerland."

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

- |     |                   |                    |                 |                  |
|-----|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1.  | (a) underwhelming | (b) overwhelmingly | (c) welcoming   | (d) overdone     |
| 2.  | (a) basics        | (b) basic          | (c) basically   | (d) the basics   |
| 3.  | (a) these         | (b) then           | (c) them        | (d) those        |
| 4.  | (a) volume        | (b) amount         | (c) transaction | (d) fee          |
| 5.  | (a) over-rule     | (b) overcharge     | (c) overact     | (d) overhaul     |
| 6.  | (a) burned        | (b) learned        | (c) earned      | (d) yearned      |
| 7.  | (a) automated     | (b) automatic      | (c) automaton   | (d) autos        |
| 8.  | (a) no thing      | (b) none thing     | (c) nothing     | (d) nonsense     |
| 9.  | (a) replayed      | (b) plaid          | (c) repaid      | (d) unpaid       |
| 10. | (a) communities   | (b) communes       | (c) committees  | (d) combinations |
| 11. | (a) cause         | (b) because        | (c) course      | (d) case         |
| 12. | (a) billions      | (b) quadrillions   | (c) trillions   | (d) millions     |

# SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1606/160608-basic-income.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. overwhelmingly jdcrteee
2. a euaeatndrg basic monthly income
3. The munederfer took place on Sunday
4. 77 per cent of voters gisnoopp the plan
5. The group behind the ropaoslp
6. the ieitvnatii was necessary

## Paragraph 2

7. work was becoming increasingly matuetado
8. fewer jobs laalaivbe for workers
9. the cmpaigan group
10. It's in different ioimutmnsec
11. many gmiormtiina problems
12. blsliino of people



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1606/160608-basic-income.html>

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

- ( ) of total work that is done is unpaid. It's care work. It's at home. It's in different communities, so that work would
- ( ) behind the proposal argued that the initiative was necessary to overhaul Switzerland's social welfare
- ( ) system. A spokesperson said it would help fight poverty and inequality. He added that it would
- ( ) provide a top-up for people who earned less than the minimum wage.
- ( **1** ) Voters in Switzerland have overwhelmingly rejected a proposal that would have meant introducing a guaranteed
- ( ) income would not be money for nothing. He said: "In Switzerland, over 50 per cent
- ( ) jobs available for workers. Che Wagner from the campaign group Basic Income Switzerland argued that the monthly
- ( ) opposing the plan. The idea was to provide a minimum salary to those who have been a citizen for at least
- ( ) be more valued with a basic income." Opponents said it would cause the
- ( ) Supporters of the plan argued that because work was becoming increasingly automated across Switzerland, there were fewer
- ( ) five years, whether they worked or not. It was suggested the monthly amount could be around \$2,500. The group
- ( ) have billions of people who would try to move into Switzerland."
- ( ) basic monthly income for all citizens. The referendum took place on Sunday and resulted in almost 77 per cent of voters
- ( ) country many immigration problems. Luzi Stamm from the Swiss People's Party said: "You would

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1606/160608-basic-income.html>

1. basic guaranteed A citizens all for income monthly .
2. five years Those who have been a citizen for at least .
3. social to welfare overhaul system Switzerland's Necessary .
4. poverty fight help would it said spokesperson A .
5. people top-up than or A less for wage earned minimum who the .
6. there jobs workers , fewer for Switzerland were available Across .
7. is done is that work total of cent per 50 Over unpaid .
8. more income valued Work with would a be basic .
9. many country the cause would It problems immigration .
10. to move You would have billions of people who would try .

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1606/160608-basic-income.html>

Voters in Switzerland have *overwhelmingly* / *overwhelmed* rejected a proposal that would have meant introducing a guaranteed *basically* / *basic* monthly income for all citizens. The referendum took *place* / *placing* on Sunday and resulted in almost 77 per cent of voters *opposite* / *opposing* the plan. The idea was to provide a minimum salary to *them* / *those* who have been a citizen for at least five years, whether they worked or *working* / *not*. It was suggested the monthly amount could be around \$2,500. The group behind the proposal *argued* / *argument* that the initiative was necessary to overhaul Switzerland's *social* / *socially* welfare system. A spokesperson said it would help fight poverty and *inequality* / *unequal*. He added that it would provide a top-up for people who earned less than the minimum *wage* / *wager*.

Supporters of the plan argued that because work was becoming increasingly *automated* / *automation* across Switzerland, there were *less* / *fewer* jobs available for workers. Che Wagner from the *campaign* / *campaigner* group Basic Income Switzerland argued that the monthly income would not be money for *something* / *nothing*. He said: "In Switzerland, over 50 per cent of total work that is *doing* / *done* is unpaid. It's *care* / *cared* work. It's at home. It's in different communities, so that work would be more *value* / *valued* with a basic income." Opponents said it would *cause* / *create* the country many immigration *problem* / *problems*. Luzi Stamm from the Swiss People's Party said: "You would have billions of people who would try to move *onto* / *into* Switzerland."

**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/1606/160608-basic-income.html>

Voters in Switzerland have overwhelmingly rejected a proposal that the world have a monthly guaranteed basic income for all citizens. Their friend met in Sunday and resulted in almost 77 percent of voters opposing the plan. The day was the previous month's salary that the have been citizens for the last few years, when they worked rent. It was suggested that the monthly amount could be around \$2,500. The group behind the proposal argued that the next time was necessary to overhaul Switzerland's social welfare system. It spoke persons said that would help fight poverty and inequality. He added that that would provide a top-up for people who earned less than the minimum wage.

Supporters of the plan argued that because work was becoming increasingly unmet due to cross Switzerland, there were fewer jobs available for workers. Chairwoman from the campaign group Basic Income Switzerland argued that the monthly income would not be many for nothing. He said: "In Switzerland, over 50 percent of full-time work that is done is unpaid. It's a crazy work. It's a home. It's an different communication, so that work would be more valuable with the basic income." Opponents said that would cause the country many more problems. Liz Stamm from the Swiss People's Party said: "You would have billions of people who would try to move into Switzerland."

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1606/160608-basic-income.html>

voters in switzerland have overwhelmingly rejected a proposal that would have meant introducing a guaranteed basic monthly income for all citizens the referendum took place on sunday and resulted in almost 77 per cent of voters opposing the plan the idea was to provide a minimum salary to those who have been a citizen for at least five years whether they worked or not it was suggested the monthly amount could be around \$2500 the group behind the proposal argued that the initiative was necessary to overhaul switzerland's social welfare system a spokesperson said it would help fight poverty and inequality he added that it would provide a top-up for people who earned less than the minimum wage

supporters of the plan argued that because work was becoming increasingly automated across switzerland there were fewer jobs available for workers che wagner from the campaign group basic income switzerland argued that the monthly income would not be money for nothing he said "in switzerland over 50 per cent of total work that is done is unpaid it's care work it's at home it's in different communities so that work would be more valued with a basic income" opponents said it would cause the country many immigration problems luzi stamm from the swiss people's party said "you would have billions of people who would try to move into switzerland"

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1606/160608-basic-income.html>

Voters in Switzerland have overwhelmingly rejected a proposal that would have meant introducing a guaranteed basic monthly income for all citizens. The referendum took place on Sunday and resulted in almost 77 percent of voters opposing the plan. The idea was to provide a minimum salary to those who have been a citizen for at least five years, whether they work or not. It was suggested the monthly amount could be around \$2,500. The group behind the proposal argued that the initiative was necessary to overhaul Switzerland's social welfare system. A spokesperson said it would help fight poverty and inequality. He added that it would provide a top-up for people who earned less than the minimum wage. Supporters of the plan argued that because work was becoming increasingly automated across Switzerland, there were fewer jobs available for workers. Christian Wagner from the campaign group Basic Income Switzerland argued that the monthly income would not be money for nothing. He said: "In Switzerland, over 50 percent of total work that is done is unpaid. It's scare work. It's at home. It's in different communities, so that work would be more valued with a basic income." Opponents said it would cause the country many immigration problems. Luzi Stamm from the Swiss People's Party said: "You would have billions of people who would try to move into Switzerland."



# ACADEMIC WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1606/160608-basic-income.html>

For a fairer society, all salaries should be the same, regardless of the job. Discuss.

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# 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 the Swiss referendum. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. WELFARE SYSTEMS:** Make a poster about welfare systems around the world. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. SALARIES:** Write a magazine article about all salaries in a country being the same, regardless of the job. 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 salaries. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas to reduce income inequality. 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 T    d F    e T    f T    g F    h F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. rejected     | a. said no to     |
| 2. referendum   | b. public vote    |
| 3. initiative   | c. plan           |
| 4. overhaul     | d. revamp         |
| 5. earned       | e. was paid       |
| 6. supporters   | f. backers        |
| 7. increasingly | g. more and more  |
| 8. unpaid       | h. free           |
| 9. communities  | i. neighbourhoods |
| 10. problems    | j. complications  |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. A basic income
2. Almost 77 per cent
3. Around \$2,500
4. The social welfare system
5. Poverty
6. Work
7. Nothing
8. Over 50 per cent
9. Immigration problems
10. Billions

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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