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Level 2

Toyota closes elevators to save money

10th July, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1607/160710-elevators-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1607/160710-elevators-2.html>

Toyota is shutting down two elevators at its headquarters to save money. The world's largest carmaker said it will shut down two of eight elevators at its main Tokyo office. This is to save electricity and to cut down on the costs of being in the building. One reason for doing this is the strengthening Japanese yen since the UK voted in June to leave the EU. One dollar was 120 yen in January; now it is just above 100. A stronger yen means Toyota cars are more expensive and profits go down. Toyota's profit for the year ending March 2016 was a record \$23 billion.

Toyota said it decided to shut down the elevators several weeks ago because of the rising yen. It is also changing the temperature of air conditioners to save money. Toyota took similar cost-cutting measures after the financial crisis of 2008. That also made the yen stronger against the dollar. Toyota said: "These policies are not new....The key objective for the stoppage of elevators...is to raise awareness amongst employees, and to remind them of the commitment that Toyota has towards the idea of increasing competitiveness through...reducing waste."

Sources: <http://www.wsj.com/articles/at-toyota-elevators-stop-as-yen-rises-1467883278>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-36742652>
<https://www.rt.com/business/350191-toyota-shuts-lifts-yen/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1607/160710-elevators-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. two elevators at its | a. ending March 2016 |
| 2. to cut down | b. are more expensive |
| 3. One reason | c. down |
| 4. One dollar | d. \$23 billion |
| 5. A stronger yen means Toyota cars | e. on the costs |
| 6. profits go | f. headquarters |
| 7. Toyota's profit for the year | g. for doing this |
| 8. a record | h. was 120 yen |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. the temperature of air | a. amongst employees |
| 2. Toyota took similar cost- | b. competitiveness |
| 3. after the financial | c. conditioners |
| 4. key | d. waste |
| 5. raise awareness | e. cutting measures |
| 6. remind them of the commitment | f. objective |
| 7. the idea of increasing | g. crisis of 2008 |
| 8. reducing | h. that Toyota has |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1607/160710-elevators-2.html>

Toyota is shutting down two elevators (1) _____ to save money. The world's largest carmaker said it will shut down two of eight elevators (2) _____ office. This is to save electricity and to cut (3) _____ of being in the building. One reason for doing this is the strengthening Japanese yen since (4) _____ June to leave the EU. One dollar was 120 yen in January; now it (5) _____ 100. A stronger yen means Toyota cars are more expensive and profits go down. Toyota's profit for (6) _____ March 2016 was a record \$23 billion.

Toyota said it decided (7) _____ the elevators several weeks ago because (8) _____. It is also changing the temperature of air conditioners to save money. Toyota took (9) _____ measures after the financial crisis of 2008. That (10) _____ yen stronger against the dollar. Toyota said: "These policies are not new....The key objective for the stoppage of elevators...is to (11) _____ amongst employees, and to remind them of the commitment that Toyota has (12) _____ of increasing competitiveness through...reducing waste."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1607/160710-elevators-2.html>

Toyota is shutting down two elevators at its headquarter to save money. The world's largest car maker said it will shut down two of eight elevators at its main Tokyo office. This is to save electricity and to cut down on the cost of being in the building. One reason for doing this is the strengthening of the Japanese yen since the UK voted in June to leave the EU. One dollar was 120 yen in January; now it is just above 100. A strong yen means Toyota cars are more expensive and profits go down. Toyota's profit for the year ending March 2016 was a record \$23 billion. Toyota said it decided to shut down the elevators several weeks ago because of the rising yen. It is also changing the temperature of air conditioners to save money. Toyota took similar cost-cutting measures after the financial crisis of 2008. That also made the yen stronger against the dollar. Toyota said: "These policies are not new.... The key objective for the stoppage of elevators... is to raise awareness among employees, and to remind them of the commitment that Toyota has toward the idea of increasing competitiveness through... reducing waste."

ELEVATORS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1607/160710-elevators-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about elevators 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) _____

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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) _____

