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# Level 1 U.S. fast-food workers stop working

#### 1st September, 2013

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage-1.html

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Try Level 0 (easier), Level 2 (harder) & the 26-page Level 3 (harder).



# THE READING

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage-1.html

American fast-food workers went on strike on Thursday. They want more money. They get paid the minimum wage of \$7.25. This is the same as 2009. They cannot live on that. Prices have gone up but their wages have not. The workers want \$15 an hour - double their current rate. A pizza restaurant worker told the BBC he got \$9 an hour. It isn't enough for himself and his daughter. He said: "I know I'm risking my job, but it's my right to fight for what I deserve."

McDonald's and Burger King said their restaurant managers decide about wages. Most of their restaurants are independent. They said higher wages would mean more expensive burgers. McDonald's profits were over \$5.5 billion in 2011. A restaurant association said wages are low because the staff are young and have little work experience. Five per cent of fast-food workers get the minimum wage. Most of those are part-timers and half are teenagers.

Sources: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-23886031 http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-fast-food-strike-20130829,0,5180708.story?track=rss http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2013/08/28/low-wage-workers/2711379/

# **VOCABULARY MATCHING**

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage-1.html

#### **PARAGRAPH ONE:**

1.	fast-food workers went	a.	enough
2	They get paid the minimum	b.	up
3.	This is the same	с.	on strike
4.	They cannot live	d.	rate
5.	Prices have gone	e.	wage
6.	double their current	f.	fight
7.	It isn't	g.	as 2009
8.	it's my right to	h.	on that

#### **PARAGRAPH TWO:**

1.	managers decide	a.	more expensive burgers
2	Most of their restaurants	b.	association
3.	higher wages would mean	c.	are independent
4.	McDonald's profits were	d.	the minimum wage
5.	a restaurant	e.	about wages
6.	have little work	f.	timers
7.	Five per cent of fast-food workers get	g.	over \$5.5 billion
8.	Most of those are part-	h.	experience

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage-1.html

American fast-food workers (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Thursday. They want more money. (2) \_\_\_\_\_ minimum wage of \$7.25. This is the same as 2009. They cannot live on that. Prices (3) \_\_\_\_\_ but their wages have not. The workers want \$15 an hour - (4) \_\_\_\_\_ rate. A pizza restaurant worker told the BBC he (5) \_\_\_\_\_\_. It isn't enough for himself and his daughter. He said: "I know (6) \_\_\_\_\_ job, but it's my right to fight for what I deserve." McDonald's and Burger King said their restaurant managers (7) \_\_\_\_\_. Most of their restaurants are independent. They (8) \_\_\_\_\_\_ would mean more expensive burgers. McDonald's (9) \_\_\_\_\_\_ \$5.5 billion in 2011. A restaurant association said wages are low because the staff are young (10) \_\_\_\_\_ experience. (11) \_\_\_\_\_\_-food workers get the minimum wage. Most of (12) \_\_\_\_\_ and half are teenagers.

# PUT A SLASH ( / )WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage-1.html

Americanfast-foodworkerswentonstrikeonThursday.Theywa ntmoremoney.Theygetpaidtheminimumwageof\$7.25.Thisisthesa meas2009.Theycannotliveonthat.Priceshavegoneupbuttheirwag eshavenot.Theworkerswant\$15anhour-doubletheirc urrentrate.ApizzarestaurantworkertoldtheBBChegot\$9anhour.Iti sn'tenoughforhimselfandhisdaughter.Hesaid:"IknowI'mriskingm yjob, butit's myrightto fight for what I deserve. "McDonald's and Burge rKingsaidtheirrestaurantmanagersdecideaboutwages.Mostofthei rrestaurantsareindependent. Theysaidhigherwageswould meanm oreexpensiveburgers.McDonald'sprofitswereover\$5.5billionin20 11. Arestaurantassociationsaidwagesarelowbecausethestaffareyo ungandhavelittleworkexperience.Fivepercentoffast-foodwork ersgettheminimumwage.Mostofthosearepart-timersandha lfareteenagers.

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# WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

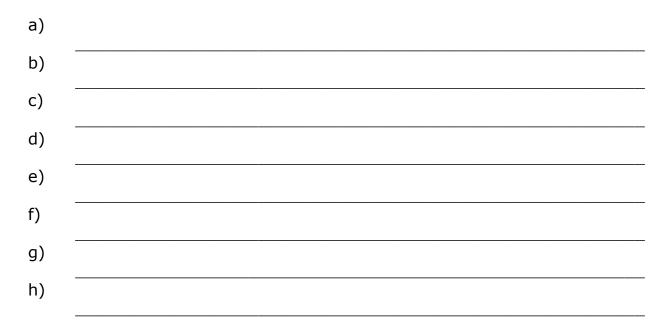
a)		
b)		
c)		
d)		
e)		
f)		
g)		
h)		

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# WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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



# WRITING

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage-1.html

Write about **wages / salary** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.