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Level 2

Families get government help with housework

24th April, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170424-household-help-2.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

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

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170424-household-help-2.html>

Working families in two towns in Germany will get government help with the housework. The government is testing a new project to help people, especially women, who want to work more. Employees who work extra hours will get vouchers. These are to get help with the housework, such as cleaning, ironing, vacuuming and dusting. The project will help to support family life and to reduce the shadow economy. The shadow economy is when people pay for things in cash but do not pay tax on them. This means the government loses money.

A government spokesman explained that qualified women work fewer hours than they want to because they do housework and look after the family. He said if these women worked five to ten hours more, they would get a government voucher and could then afford to pay someone to help with the housework. He added that the new system would mean more jobs for people in the household-help industry and create more tax for the government. Another spokesman said: "With professional help in the home, it is easier to balance work and family life."

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-39675081>
<http://www.faz.net/aktuell/beruf-chance/arbeitswelt/modellprojekt-in-wuerttemberg-gutscheine-fuer-die-angemeldete-putzfrau-14981573.html>
<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/projektstart--gutscheine-fuer-haushaltsnahe-dienstleistungen/115886>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170424-household-help-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. help with | a. cash |
| 2. Employees who work extra | b. and dusting |
| 3. vacuuming | c. hours |
| 4. The project will help to | d. loses money |
| 5. The shadow | e. support family life |
| 6. people pay for things in | f. tax |
| 7. do not pay | g. the housework |
| 8. This means the government | h. economy |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. women work fewer | a. pay someone |
| 2. look | b. in the home |
| 3. they would get a government | c. after the family |
| 4. afford to | d. and family life |
| 5. more jobs | e. voucher |
| 6. create more tax | f. for people |
| 7. professional help | g. hours than they want to |
| 8. easier to balance work | h. for the government |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170424-household-help-2.html>

Working (1) _____ towns in Germany will get government help with the housework. The government (2) _____ new project to help people, especially women, who (3) _____ more. Employees who work extra hours will get vouchers. (4) _____ help with the housework, such as cleaning, ironing, vacuuming and dusting. The project will (5) _____ family life and to reduce the shadow economy. The shadow economy is when people pay for things in cash but (6) _____ on them. This means the government loses money.

A government spokesman (7) _____ qualified women work fewer hours than (8) _____ because they do housework and look after the family. He said if these women worked (9) _____ hours more, they would get a government voucher and could then afford to pay someone to help with the housework. (10) _____ the new system would mean more jobs for people in the household-help industry and create (11) _____ the government. Another spokesman said: "With professional help in the home, it is easier (12) _____ and family life."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170424-household-help-2.html>

Working families in two towns in Germany will get government help with their housework. The government is testing a new project to help people, especially women, who want to work more. Employees who work extra hours will get vouchers. These are to get help with the housework, such as cleaning, ironing, vacuuming and dusting. The project will help to support family life and to reduce the shadow economy. The shadow economy is when people pay for things in cash but do not pay tax on them. This means the government loses money. A government spokesman explained that qualified women work fewer hours than they want to because they do housework and look after the family. He said if these women worked five to ten hours more, they would get a government voucher and could then afford to pay someone to help with the housework. He added that the new system would mean more jobs for people in the household-help industry and create more tax for the government. Another spokesman said: "With professional help in the home, it is easier to balance work and family life."

HOUSEWORK SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170424-household-help-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about housework 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) _____

