

# Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES  
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

[breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html](http://breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html)

**Thousands more free lessons  
from Sean's other websites**

[www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean\\_banville\\_lessons.html](http://www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html)

**Level 3 – 26th October 2023**

## **Iceland's prime minister and women go on strike**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231026-womens-day-off.html>

### **Contents**

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	15
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	16
Vocabulary	4	Spelling	17
Before Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	18
Gap Fill	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	19
Match The Sentences And Listen	7	Circle The Correct Word	20
Listening Gap Fill	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	21
Comprehension Questions	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	22
Multiple Choice - Quiz	10	Put A Slash ( / ) Where The Spaces Are	23
Role Play	11	Free Writing	24
After Reading / Listening	12	Academic Writing	25
Student Survey	13	Homework	26
Discussion (20 Questions)	14	Answers	27

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

**Twitter**



[twitter.com/SeanBanville](https://twitter.com/SeanBanville)

**Facebook**



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231026-womens-day-off.html>

Women across Iceland joined their prime minister in going on strike on Tuesday. The action was part of a campaign for greater gender equality in the country. Prime minister Katrin Jakobsdottir told reporters why she took part in the "Women's Day Off". She said: "As you know, we have not yet reached our goals of full gender equality and we are still tackling the gender-based wage gap, which is unacceptable in 2023." A spokeswoman for the day off said: "On 24 October, all women in Iceland were encouraged to stop work, both paid and unpaid. For the whole day, women (and non-binary people) went on strike, to demonstrate the importance of their contribution to society."

Yesterday was the seventh time that women in Iceland have gone on strike. It was the first such action in nearly 50 years. The last strike was in 1975, when 90 per cent of women did not go to work and did not do housework. The following year, Iceland passed an equal pay law. In 1980, Iceland became the first country in Europe to elect a woman as head of state. According to the World Economic Forum, Iceland has had the smallest gender gap of any country for 14 years in a row. Despite this, Ms Jakobsdottir, said there is still a long way to go. She wants women's pay to be equal to men's pay. She also wants a reduction in gender-based violence. Ms Jakobsdottir said this was a "priority" for her government to tackle.

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/10/23/europe/iceland-women-strike-scli-intl/index.html>  
<https://www.icelandreview.com/news/healthcare-and-education-services-especially-impacted-by-womens-strike/>  
<https://time.com/6327860/iceland-jakobsdottir-womens-strike/>

# WARM-UPS

**1. ICELAND:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Iceland. 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?

women / Iceland / prime minister / campaign / gender equality / gender gap / society strike / 50 years ago / housework / equal pay / head of state / violence / priority

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

**3. GENDER EQUALITY:** Students A **strongly** believe we will achieve equality between men and women; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. EQUALITY:** How far are these things from equality? How can we move towards equality? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Equality?	How Can We Get There?
Gender equality		
Wealth equality		
Digital equality		
Religious equality		
Environmental equality		
Employment equality		

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

**6. WOMEN ARE BETTER:** Rank these with your partner. Put the things women can do better than men at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Cook
- Teach
- Listen
- Love
- Write books
- Act
- Win arguments
- Drive

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. prime minister | a. The state of being the same, especially in status, rights, or opportunities.                |
| 2. campaign       | b. The leader of a country (like a president).   |
| 3. gender         | c. Either male or female.  |
| 4. equality       | d. A fixed regular payment for work or services, usually paid on a daily or weekly basis.      |
| 5. tackling       | e. The part played by a person or thing in getting a result or helping something to be better. |
| 6. wage           | f. An organized course of action to reach a goal.  |
| 7. contribution   | g. Make a big effort to deal with a problem or difficult task.                                 |

## Paragraph 2

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 8. housework  | h. One after the other.   |
| 9. elect      | i. A thing that is thought to be more important than others.                          |
| 10. gap       | j. Behaviour involving physical force to hurt, damage, or kill someone or something.  |
| 11. in a row  | k. A difference, especially a negative one, between two situations.                   |
| 12. reduction | l. The action or fact of making something smaller or less in amount, degree, or size. |
| 13. violence  | m. Regular work done in the home, like cleaning and tidying.                          |
| 14. priority  | n. Choose someone to hold an important position by voting.                            |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231026-womens-day-off.html>

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

1. A women's strike in Iceland was to campaign for the environment. **T / F**
2. The strike was called "Men Against Women". **T / F**
3. Iceland's leader said differences in men and women's pay were OK. **T / F**
4. Women who were unpaid also went on strike. **T / F**
5. It is the first time for women in Iceland to strike. **T / F**
6. Iceland passed an equal pay law in 1976. **T / F**
7. Iceland was the first country in the world to have a female leader. **T / F**
8. A priority for Iceland is to lower gender-based violence. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>campaign</b>     | a. involvement   |
| 2. <b>took part</b>    | b. achieved      |
| 3. <b>reached</b>      | c. urged         |
| 4. <b>encouraged</b>   | d. consecutively |
| 5. <b>contribution</b> | e. cut           |
| 6. <b>following</b>    | f. effort        |
| 7. <b>elect</b>        | g. main concern  |
| 8. <b>in a row</b>     | h. vote in       |
| 9. <b>reduction</b>    | i. participated  |
| 10. <b>priority</b>    | j. next          |

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

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. part of a campaign for greater            | a. equal pay law         |
| 2. we have not yet reached                   | b. to society            |
| 3. tackling the                              | c. way to go             |
| 4. all women in Iceland were encouraged      | d. our goals             |
| 5. the importance of their contribution      | e. in nearly 50 years    |
| 6. It was the first such action              | f. in a row              |
| 7. Iceland passed an                         | g. gender-based wage gap |
| 8. for 14 years                              | h. to tackle             |
| 9. there is still a long                     | i. to stop work          |
| 10. this was a "priority" for her government | j. gender equality       |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231026-womens-day-off.html>

Women across Iceland (1) \_\_\_\_\_ their prime minister in going on strike on Tuesday. The action was part of a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ for greater gender equality in the country. Prime minister Katrin Jakobsdottir told reporters why she took (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in the "Women's Day Off". She said: "As you know, we have not yet (4) \_\_\_\_\_ our goals of full gender equality and we are still tackling the gender-based (5) \_\_\_\_\_ gap, which is unacceptable in 2023." A (6) \_\_\_\_\_ for the day off said: "On 24 October, all women in Iceland were encouraged to stop work, both paid and (7) \_\_\_\_\_. For the whole day, women (and non-binary people) went on strike, to demonstrate the importance of their (8) \_\_\_\_\_ to society."

*part*  
*wage*  
*joined*  
*contribution*  
*reached*  
*unpaid*  
*campaign*  
*spokeswoman*

Yesterday was the seventh time that women in Iceland have (9) \_\_\_\_\_ on strike. It was the first such action in nearly 50 years. The (10) \_\_\_\_\_ strike was in 1975, when 90 per cent of women did not go to work and did not do housework. The (11) \_\_\_\_\_ year, Iceland passed an equal pay law. In 1980, Iceland became the first country in Europe to (12) \_\_\_\_\_ a woman as head of state. According to the World Economic Forum, Iceland has had the smallest gender gap of any country for 14 years in a (13) \_\_\_\_\_. Despite this, Ms Jakobsdottir, said there is still a long (14) \_\_\_\_\_ to go. She wants women's pay to be equal to men's (15) \_\_\_\_\_. She also wants a reduction in gender-based violence. Ms Jakobsdottir said this was a "(16) \_\_\_\_\_" for her government to tackle.

*elect*  
*last*  
*way*  
*priority*  
*gone*  
*pay*  
*row*  
*following*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231026-womens-day-off.html>

- 1) Women across Iceland joined their prime minister in \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. going in strike
  - b. going on strike
  - c. going of strike
  - d. going gong strike
- 2) The action was part of a campaign for \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. greatly gender equality
  - b. grey tar gender equality
  - c. great agenda equality
  - d. greater gender equality
- 3) goals of full gender equality and we are still tackling the gender-\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. based waged gap
  - b. based waged app
  - c. based wage gape
  - d. based wage gap
- 4) all women in Iceland were encouraged to stop work, both \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. pay end unpaid
  - b. paid end unpaid
  - c. paid an done paid
  - d. paid and unpaid
- 5) women (and non-binary people) went on strike, to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. demonstrate the importance
  - b. demonstrate the important
  - c. demonstrate the import tents
  - d. demonstrate the import tense
- 6) It was the first such action in \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. nearly 50 years
  - b. really 50 years
  - c. near life 50 years
  - d. near lie 50 years
- 7) The following year, Iceland passed an \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. equal pay raw
  - b. equal paid lore
  - c. equal pay law
  - d. equal pay roar
- 8) In 1980, Iceland became the first country in Europe to elect a woman as \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. head off state
  - b. head of state
  - c. heads of state
  - d. head of slate
- 9) Iceland has had the smallest gender gap of any country for 14 years \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. in a bow
  - b. in a row
  - c. in a low
  - d. in arrow
- 10) Ms Jakobsdottir said this was a "priority" for her \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. government to tickle
  - b. government to tackle
  - c. government to trickle
  - d. government to talkie

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231026-womens-day-off.html>

Women across Iceland joined their prime minister (1) \_\_\_\_\_ strike on Tuesday. The action was part of a campaign (2) \_\_\_\_\_ equality in the country. Prime minister Katrin Jakobsdottir told reporters why she took part in the "Women's Day Off". She said: "As you know, we have not (3) \_\_\_\_\_ goals of full gender equality and we are still tackling the gender-based wage gap, (4) \_\_\_\_\_ in 2023." A spokeswoman for the day off said: "On 24 October, all women in Iceland were (5) \_\_\_\_\_ work, both paid and unpaid. For the whole day, women (and non-binary people) went on strike, to demonstrate (6) \_\_\_\_\_ their contribution to society."

Yesterday was (7) \_\_\_\_\_ that women in Iceland have gone on strike. It was the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ in nearly 50 years. The last strike was in 1975, when 90 per cent of women did not go to work and did not do housework. (9) \_\_\_\_\_, Iceland passed an equal pay law. In 1980, Iceland became the first country in Europe to elect a woman as (10) \_\_\_\_\_. According to the World Economic Forum, Iceland has had the smallest gender gap of any country for 14 years (11) \_\_\_\_\_. Despite this, Ms Jakobsdottir, said there is still a long way to go. She wants women's pay to be equal to men's pay. She also wants (12) \_\_\_\_\_ gender-based violence. Ms Jakobsdottir said this was a "priority" for her government to tackle.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231026-womens-day-off.html>

1. Who joined women in Iceland in a strike?
2. What is the name of the strike?
3. What did Iceland's leader say was not being tackled?
4. What did Iceland's leader say was unacceptable in 2023?
5. What did women want to demonstrate their importance to?
6. How many times have women in Iceland now gone on strike?
7. When did the previous women's strike take place?
8. What did Iceland do in 1980?
9. For how many years in a row has Iceland had the smallest gender gap?
10. What is a "priority" for Iceland's government to tackle?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231026-womens-day-off.html>

- 1) Who joined women in Iceland in a strike?
  - a) men in Iceland
  - b) women across Iceland
  - c) children in Iceland
  - d) women across the world
- 2) What is the name of the strike?
  - a) Equality For All
  - b) Women On Strike
  - c) Equality For Women
  - d) the Women's Day Off
- 3) What did Iceland's leader say was not being reached?
  - a) full gender equality
  - b) climate change
  - c) inflation
  - d) crime
- 4) What did Iceland's leader say was unacceptable in 2023?
  - a) the level of wages
  - b) the level of unemployment
  - c) the gender-based wage gap
  - d) climate change
- 5) What did women want to demonstrate their importance to?
  - a) family life
  - b) society
  - c) men
  - d) each other
- 6) How many times have women in Iceland now gone on strike?
  - a) five
  - b) six
  - c) seven
  - d) eight
- 7) When did the previous women's strike take place?
  - a) 1976
  - b) 1973
  - c) 1974
  - d) 1975
- 8) What did Iceland do in 1980?
  - a) elect a woman as head of state
  - b) become independent
  - c) hold the Olympics
  - d) strike
- 9) For how many years in a row has Iceland had the smallest gender gap?
  - a) 14 years
  - b) 15 years
  - c) 16 years
  - d) 17 years
- 10) What is a "priority" for Iceland's government to tackle?
  - a) climate change
  - b) reduce gender-based violence
  - c) unemployment
  - d) crime

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231026-womens-day-off.html>

## **Role A – Cook**

You think cooking is the top thing that women can do better than men. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why men might be better at their things. Also, tell the others which of these women aren't so good at (and why): listening, winning arguments or driving.

## **Role B – Listening**

You think listening is the top thing that women can do better than men. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why men might be better at their things. Also, tell the others which of these women aren't so good at (and why): cooking, winning arguments or driving.

## **Role C – Winning Arguments**

You think winning arguments is the top thing that women can do better than men. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why men might be better at their things. Also, tell the others which of these women aren't so good at (and why): listening, cooking or driving.

## **Role D – Drive**

You think driving is the top thing that women can do better than men. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why men might be better at their things. Also, tell the others which of these women aren't so good at (and why): listening, winning arguments or cooking.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231026-womens-day-off.html>

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

<b>women</b>	<b>strike</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>• joined</li><li>• greater</li><li>• reached</li><li>• still</li><li>• all</li><li>• whole</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• seventh</li><li>• such</li><li>• following</li><li>• head</li><li>• 14</li><li>• reduction</li></ul>
--	--

# GENDER EQUALITY SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231026-womens-day-off.html>

Write five GOOD questions about gender equality 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.

# GENDER EQUALITY DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'woman'?
3. How equal are men and women in your country?
4. Why do men get paid more than women?
5. What do you think of the prime minister going on strike?
6. How can we achieve equality for women?
7. What do you think of the 'Women's Day Off'?
8. In what ways is there inequality between men and women?
9. Would you ever go on strike?
10. What is the contribution of women in your society?

*Iceland's prime minister and women go on strike – 26th October 2023*  
Thousands more free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](https://www.breakingnewsenglish.com)

---

# GENDER EQUALITY DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'strike'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Who should do the housework?
15. Are male or female leaders better?
16. What great female presidents or prime ministers do you know of?
17. How can we reduce gender-based violence?
18. What do you think is your country's biggest priority?
19. What do you know about Iceland?
20. What questions would you like to ask the striking women?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

Copyright © breakingnewsenglish.com 2023

---

# 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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231026-womens-day-off.html>

Women (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Iceland joined their prime minister in going on strike on Tuesday. The action was part of a campaign for (2) \_\_\_\_\_ gender equality in the country. Prime minister Katrin Jakobsdottir told reporters why she took (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in the "Women's Day Off". She said: "As you know, we have not yet reached our goals of full gender equality and we are still (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the gender-based wage gap, which is unacceptable in 2023." A spokeswoman for the day off said: "On 24 October, all women in Iceland were encouraged (5) \_\_\_\_\_ stop work, both paid and unpaid. For the whole day, women (and non-binary people) went on strike, to demonstrate the importance of their contribution (6) \_\_\_\_\_ society."

Yesterday was the seventh time that women in Iceland have (7) \_\_\_\_\_ on strike. It was the first such action in nearly 50 years. The last strike was in 1975, when 90 per cent of women did not go to work and did not do housework. The (8) \_\_\_\_\_ year, Iceland passed an equal pay law. In 1980, Iceland became the first country in Europe to (9) \_\_\_\_\_ a woman as head of state. According to the World Economic Forum, Iceland has had the smallest gender gap of (10) \_\_\_\_\_ country for 14 years in a row. Despite this, Ms Jakobsdottir, said there is still a long way to (11) \_\_\_\_\_. She wants women's pay to be equal to men's pay. She also wants a reduction in gender-based violence. Ms Jakobsdottir said this was a "(12) \_\_\_\_\_" for her government to tackle.

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

- |     |               |              |                |                |
|-----|---------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) cross     | (b) across   | (c) crossed    | (d) crossing   |
| 2.  | (a) greats    | (b) greatly  | (c) great      | (d) greater    |
| 3.  | (a) bit       | (b) part     | (c) some       | (d) whole      |
| 4.  | (a) throwing  | (b) heading  | (c) tackling   | (d) kicking    |
| 5.  | (a) to        | (b) by       | (c) of         | (d) so         |
| 6.  | (a) to        | (b) of       | (c) by         | (d) at         |
| 7.  | (a) done      | (b) went     | (c) going      | (d) gone       |
| 8.  | (a) following | (b) follows  | (c) followed   | (d) follow     |
| 9.  | (a) eject     | (b) elect    | (c) erect      | (d) edict      |
| 10. | (a) many      | (b) some     | (c) any        | (d) more       |
| 11. | (a) work      | (b) let      | (c) go         | (d) do         |
| 12. | (a) prior     | (b) priority | (c) prioritize | (d) priorities |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231026-womens-day-off.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. The action was part of a ampaicgn
2. our goals of full gender uelaqity
3. which is aucetpnaclbe in 2023
4. ncuearoged to stop work
5. went on strike to smodertnate the importance
6. their contribution to cseioty

## Paragraph 2

7. did not do uesowhrok
8. the ollfwiong year
9. elect a woman as head of state
10. a reduction in gender-based ilvneoce
11. Jakobsdottir said this was a rroipty
12. for her government to acktle

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231026-womens-day-off.html>

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

- ( **1** ) Women across Iceland joined their prime minister in going on strike on Tuesday. The action was part of a campaign
- ( ) had the smallest gender gap of any country for 14 years in a row. Despite this, Ms Jakobsdottir, said there is still a long
- ( ) for the day off said: "On 24 October, all women in Iceland were encouraged to stop
- ( ) housework. The following year, Iceland passed an equal pay law. In 1980, Iceland became the first
- ( ) part in the "Women's Day Off". She said: "As you know, we have not yet reached our goals of full gender
- ( ) country in Europe to elect a woman as head of state. According to the World Economic Forum, Iceland has
- ( ) 50 years. The last strike was in 1975, when 90 per cent of women did not go to work and did not do
- ( ) on strike, to demonstrate the importance of their contribution to society."
- ( ) violence. Ms Jakobsdottir said this was a "priority" for her government to tackle.
- ( ) Yesterday was the seventh time that women in Iceland have gone on strike. It was the first such action in nearly
- ( ) way to go. She wants women's pay to be equal to men's pay. She also wants a reduction in gender-based
- ( ) for greater gender equality in the country. Prime minister Katrin Jakobsdottir told reporters why she took
- ( ) equality and we are still tackling the gender-based wage gap, which is unacceptable in 2023." A spokeswoman
- ( ) work, both paid and unpaid. For the whole day, women (and non-binary people) went

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231026-womens-day-off.html>

1. equality . gender greater campaign Part for of a
2. We yet goals . not reached have our
3. are gap . the still wage tackling We gender-based
4. were in work . to encouraged Iceland Women stop
5. society . of contribution to their importance the Demonstrate
6. The action nearly such years . first in 50
7. passed After that, an Iceland pay law . equal
8. woman Elect of a head as state .
9. smallest gender of The any gap country .
10. for A her priority to government tackle .

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231026-womens-day-off.html>

Women across Iceland *joined / joint* their prime minister in going *in / on* strike on Tuesday. The action was part *off / of* a campaign for greater gender equality in the country. Prime minister Katrin Jakobsdottir told reporters why she took part *in / on* the "Women's Day Off". She said: "As you know, we have not yet *reached / reaching* our goals of full gender *equality / equal* and we are still tackling the gender-based wage gap, which is *acceptable / unacceptable* in 2023." A spokeswoman for the day off said: "On 24 October, all women in Iceland were encouraged to *stopping / stop work*, both paid and unpaid. For the *whole / while* day, women (and non-binary people) went on strike, to demonstrate the *important / importance* of their contribution to society."

Yesterday was the seventh time that women in Iceland have *going / gone* on strike. It was the first *much / such* action in nearly 50 years. The *last / lastly* strike was in 1975, when 90 per cent of women did not go to work and did not do *homework / housework*. The following year, Iceland passed an equal *pay / paid* law. In 1980, Iceland became the first country in Europe to *eject / elect* a woman as head of state. According to the World Economic Forum, Iceland has had the *small / smallest* gender gap of any country for 14 years in a row. *Despite / Spite* this, Ms Jakobsdottir, said there is still a long way to go. She wants women's pay to be equal to men's pay. She also wants a *reduction / reduce* in gender-based violence. Ms Jakobsdottir said this was a "priority" for her government to *tickle / tackle*.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231026-womens-day-off.html>

W\_m\_n \_cr\_ss \_c\_l\_nd j\_\_n\_d th\_\_r pr\_m\_ m\_n\_st\_r \_n  
g\_\_ng \_n str\_k\_ \_n T\_\_sd\_y. Th\_ \_ct\_\_n w\_s p\_rt \_f  
\_ c\_mp\_\_gn f\_r gr\_\_t\_r g\_nd\_r \_q\_\_l\_ty \_n th\_  
c\_\_ntry. Pr\_m\_ m\_n\_st\_r K\_tr\_n J\_k\_bsd\_tt\_r t\_ld  
r\_p\_rt\_rs why sh\_ t\_\_k p\_rt \_n th\_ "W\_m\_n's D\_y  
\_ff". Sh\_ s\_\_d: "\_s y\_\_ kn\_w, w\_ h\_v\_ n\_t y\_t  
r\_\_ch\_d \_\_r g\_\_ls \_f f\_ll g\_nd\_r \_q\_\_l\_ty \_nd w\_ \_r\_  
st\_ll t\_ckl\_ng th\_ g\_nd\_r-b\_s\_d w\_g\_ g\_p, wh\_ch \_s  
\_n\_cc\_pt\_bl\_ \_n 2023." \_ sp\_k\_sw\_m\_n f\_r th\_ d\_y \_ff  
s\_\_d: "\_n 24 \_ct\_b\_r, \_ll w\_m\_n \_n \_c\_l\_nd w\_r\_  
\_nc\_\_r\_g\_d t\_ st\_p w\_rk, b\_th p\_\_d \_nd \_np\_\_d. F\_r  
th\_ wh\_l\_ d\_y, w\_m\_n (\_nd n\_n-b\_n\_ry p\_\_pl\_) w\_nt  
\_n str\_k\_, t\_ d\_m\_nstr\_t\_ th\_ \_mp\_rt\_nc\_ \_f th\_\_r  
c\_ntr\_b\_t\_\_n t\_ s\_c\_\_ty."

Y\_st\_rdy w\_s th\_ s\_v\_nth t\_m\_ th\_t w\_m\_n \_n  
\_c\_l\_nd h\_v\_ g\_n\_ \_n str\_k\_. \_t w\_s th\_ f\_rst s\_ch  
\_ct\_\_n \_n n\_\_rly 50 y\_\_rs. Th\_ l\_st str\_k\_ w\_s \_n  
1975, wh\_n 90 p\_r c\_nt \_f w\_m\_n d\_d n\_t g\_ t\_  
w\_rk \_nd d\_d n\_t d\_ h\_\_s\_w\_rk. Th\_ f\_ll\_wng y\_\_r,  
\_c\_l\_nd p\_ss\_d \_n \_q\_\_l p\_y l\_w. \_n 1980, \_c\_l\_nd  
b\_c\_m\_ th\_ f\_rst c\_\_ntry \_n \_\_r\_p\_ t\_ \_l\_ct \_ w\_m\_n  
\_s h\_\_d \_f st\_t\_. \_cc\_rdn\_g t\_ th\_ W\_rld \_c\_n\_m\_c  
F\_r\_m, \_c\_l\_nd h\_s h\_d th\_ sm\_ll\_st g\_nd\_r g\_p \_f  
\_ny c\_\_ntry f\_r 14 y\_\_rs \_n \_r\_w. D\_sp\_t\_ th\_s, Ms  
J\_k\_bsd\_tt\_r, s\_\_d th\_r\_ \_s st\_ll \_ l\_ng w\_y t\_ g\_.  
Sh\_ w\_nts w\_m\_n's p\_y t\_ b\_ \_q\_\_l t\_ m\_n's p\_y.  
Sh\_ \_ls\_ w\_nts \_r\_d\_ct\_\_n \_n g\_nd\_r-b\_s\_d v\_\_l\_nc\_.  
Ms J\_k\_bsd\_tt\_r s\_\_d th\_s w\_s \_ "pr\_\_r\_ty" f\_r h\_r  
g\_v\_rnm\_nt t\_ t\_ckl\_.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231026-womens-day-off.html>

women across iceland joined their prime minister in going on strike on tuesday the action was part of a campaign for greater gender equality in the country prime minister katrin jakobsdottir told reporters why she took part in the womens day off she said as you know we have not yet reached our goals of full gender equality and we are still tackling the genderbased wage gap which is unacceptable in 2023 a spokeswoman for the day off said on 24 october all women in iceland were encouraged to stop work both paid and unpaid for the whole day women and nonbinary people went on strike to demonstrate the importance of their contribution to society

yesterday was the seventh time that women in iceland have gone on strike it was the first such action in nearly 50 years the last strike was in 1975 when 90 per cent of women did not go to work and did not do housework the following year iceland passed an equal pay law in 1980 iceland became the first country in Europe to elect a woman as head of state according to the world economic forum iceland has had the smallest gender gap of any country for 14 years in a row despite this ms jakobsdottir said there is still a long way to go she wants womens pay to be equal to mens pay she also wants a reduction in genderbased violence ms jakobsdottir said this was a priority for her government to tackle

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231026-womens-day-off.html>

Women across Iceland joined their prime minister in going on strike on Tuesday. The action was part of a campaign for greater gender equality in the country. Prime Minister Katrín Jakobsdóttir told reporters why she took part in the "Women's Day Off". She said: "As you know, we have not yet reached our goal of full gender equality and we are still tackling the gender-based wage gap, which is unacceptable in 2023." A spokeswoman for the day off said: "On 24 October, all women in Iceland were encouraged to stop work, both paid and unpaid. For the whole day, women (and non-binary people) went on strike, to demonstrate the importance of their contribution to society." Yesterday was the seventh time that women in Iceland have gone on strike. It was the first such action in nearly 50 years. The last strike was in 1975, when 90 percent of women did not go to work and did not do housework. The following year, Iceland passed an equal pay law. In 1980, Iceland became the first country in Europe to elect a woman as head of state. According to the World Economic Forum, Iceland has had the smallest gender gap of any country for 14 years in a row. Despite this, Ms Jakobsdóttir said there is still a long way to go. She wants women's pay to be equal to men's pay. She also wants a reduction in gender-based violence. Ms Jakobsdóttir said this was a "priority" for her government to tackle.







# 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 this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. GENDER EQUALITY:** Make a poster about gender equality. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. WOMEN'S DAY OFF:** Write a magazine article about every country having a women's day off. 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 gender equality. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how we can move further towards gender equality. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. b    2. f    3. c    4. a    5. g    6. d    7. e  
8. m    9. n    10. k    11. h    12. l    13. j    14. i

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F    2 F    3 F    4 T    5 F    6 T    7 F    8 T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. f	2. i	3. b	4. c	5. a
6. j	7. h	8. d	9. e	10. g

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Women across Iceland
2. The Women's Day Off
3. Full gender equality
4. The gender-based wage gap
5. Society
6. Seven
7. 1975
8. Elect a woman as head of state
9. Fourteen years
10. Reduce gender-based violence

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Part of a campaign for greater gender equality.
2. We have not yet reached our goals.
3. We are still tackling the gender-based wage gap.
4. Women in Iceland were encouraged to stop work.
5. Demonstrate the importance of their contribution to society.
6. The first such action in nearly 50 years.
7. After that, Iceland passed an equal pay law.
8. Elect a woman as head of state.
9. The smallest gender gap of any country.
10. A priority for her government to tackle.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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 ;-)