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## Level 3

# U.S. fast-food workers stop working

**1st September, 2013**

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

Fast-food workers in 58 cities in the USA did not go to work on Thursday. They went on strike because they want more money. The workers currently get paid the minimum wage. This was set at \$7.25 in 2009 and has not changed since then. Many workers say they cannot afford to live on that. The price of everything has gone up but their wages have stayed the same for five years. The workers want \$15 an hour, which is double their current rate. Julio Wilson, a cashier at a pizza restaurant, told the BBC he earns \$9 an hour. He said that wasn't enough to support himself and his five-year-old 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 both spoke about the strike. They said they did not make decisions about how much to pay workers in most of their restaurants. They said each restaurant is an independent franchise and the manager decides how much to pay the staff. McDonald's profits were over \$5.5 billion in 2011. The burger giants did say that an increase in wages would mean more expensive burgers. America's National Restaurant Association said the wages were low because the staff are young and have little work experience. It said: "Only five per cent of restaurant employees earn the minimum wage and those that do are [mainly] working part-time 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/>

# WARM-UPS

**1. WAGES / SALARY:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about wages / salary. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*fast food / go on strike / minimum wage / afford to live / double / cashier / risking / McDonald's / restaurants / independent / staff / profits / burgers / work experience*

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

**3. JOBS:** Complete this table with your partner(s). How much should they get an hour? Why? Change partners often and share what you wrote.

Job	Hourly rate?	Why?
Fast-food worker		
English teacher		
IT professor		
Soldier		
Nurse		
Bank manager		

**4. MINIMUM WAGE:** Students A **strongly** believe the minimum wage should double; Students B **strongly** believe this would be crazy. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. LOW PAY:** Rank these low-paid jobs and share your rankings with your partner. Put the job you would least like to do at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- fast-food worker
- dishwasher
- cashier
- amusement park worker
- movie theater usher
- farm worker
- English teacher
- home care worker

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

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage.html>

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

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a. Workers in 58 American cities went on strike in Thursday.             | T / F |
| b. The workers get the same pay today as they did in 2009.               | T / F |
| c. The fast-food workers want a 50% pay increase.                        | T / F |
| d. One worker said he didn't want to risk losing his job.                | T / F |
| e. McDonald's said it didn't decide how much to pay its workers.         | T / F |
| f. McDonald's made over \$5.5 billion in profits last year.              | T / F |
| g. A restaurant association said wages were low because staff are young. | T / F |
| h. Half of all restaurant workers get the minimum wage.                  | T / F |

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

- |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. workers   | a. survive      |
| 2. currently | b. poor         |
| 3. live      | c. reward       |
| 4. earns     | d. presently    |
| 5. deserve   | e. lead to      |
| 6. pay       | f. merit        |
| 7. increase  | g. employees    |
| 8. mean      | h. lowest level |
| 9. low       | i. is paid      |
| 10. minimum  | j. rise         |

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

- |                                      |                           |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. They went on strike because       | a. over \$5.5 billion     |
| 2. workers say they cannot           | b. himself                |
| 3. he earns                          | c. experience             |
| 4. that wasn't enough to support     | d. they want more money   |
| 5. it's my right to fight            | e. \$9 an hour            |
| 6. each restaurant is an independent | f. time                   |
| 7. McDonald's profits were           | g. afford to live on that |
| 8. an increase in wages would mean   | h. for what I deserve     |
| 9. have little work                  | i. franchise              |
| 10. working part-                    | j. more expensive burgers |

# GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage.html>

Fast-food workers in 58 cities in the USA did not go to work on Thursday. They went (1) \_\_\_\_\_ strike because they want more money. The workers (2) \_\_\_\_\_ get paid the minimum wage. This was set at \$7.25 in 2009 and has not changed (3) \_\_\_\_\_ then. Many workers say they cannot afford to live on that. The price of (4) \_\_\_\_\_ has gone up but their wages have stayed the same for five years. The workers want \$15 an hour, which is (5) \_\_\_\_\_ their current rate. Julio Wilson, a cashier at a pizza restaurant, told the BBC he (6) \_\_\_\_\_ \$9 an hour. He said that wasn't (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to support himself and his five-year-old daughter. He said: "I know I'm risking my job, but it's my (8) \_\_\_\_\_ to fight for what I deserve."

*earns*  
*since*  
*on*  
*right*  
*everything*  
*enough*  
*currently*  
*double*

McDonald's and Burger King both spoke about the strike. They said they did not make (9) \_\_\_\_\_ about how much to pay workers in most of their restaurants. They said each restaurant is an independent (10) \_\_\_\_\_ and the manager decides how much to pay the staff. McDonald's (11) \_\_\_\_\_ were over \$5.5 billion in 2011. The burger giants did say that an increase in wages would (12) \_\_\_\_\_ more expensive burgers. America's National Restaurant Association said the wages were (13) \_\_\_\_\_ because the staff are young and have (14) \_\_\_\_\_ work experience. It said: "Only five per cent of restaurant employees earn the (14) \_\_\_\_\_ wage and those that do are [mainly] working part-time and (16) \_\_\_\_\_ are teenagers."

*low*  
*minimum*  
*mean*  
*franchise*  
*half*  
*decisions*  
*little*  
*profits*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage.html>

- 1) The workers currently get paid the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. minimal wage
  - b. maximum wage
  - c. minimum wage
  - d. maximal wage
- 2) This was set at \$7.25 in 2009 and has not \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. changed since them
  - b. changed since then
  - c. changed since now
  - d. changed since when
- 3) The price of everything has gone up but their wages have \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. stayed the same
  - b. stays the same
  - c. staying the same
  - d. staid the same
- 4) He said that wasn't enough \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to support his self
  - b. to support hymns elf
  - c. to support himself
  - d. to support him shelf
- 5) it's my right to fight for \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. want I deserve
  - b. that I deserve
  - c. what I deserve
  - d. which I deserve
- 6) They said they did not make decisions about how much \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to bay workers
  - b. to day workers
  - c. to hay workers
  - d. to pay workers
- 7) They said each restaurant is an \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. independence franchise
  - b. independent franchise
  - c. independent French fries
  - d. independence French fries
- 8) McDonald's profits were over \$5.5 \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. million in 2011
  - b. billion in 2011
  - c. trillion in 2011
  - d. quadrillion in 2011
- 9) The burger giants did say that an increase in wages would mean \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. most expensive burgers
  - b. many expensive burgers
  - c. much expensive burgers
  - d. more expensive burgers d.
- 10) the staff are young and have \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. small work experience
  - b. few work experience
  - c. little work experience
  - d. tiny work experience

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage.html>

Fast-food workers in 58 cities in the USA did not go to work on Thursday. They (1) \_\_\_\_\_ they want more money. The workers currently get paid the minimum wage. (2) \_\_\_\_\_ \$7.25 in 2009 and has not changed since then. Many workers say they cannot afford (3) \_\_\_\_\_. The price of everything has gone up but their wages have stayed the same for five years. The workers want \$15 an hour, which is (4) \_\_\_\_\_ rate. Julio Wilson, a cashier at a pizza restaurant, told the BBC he earns \$9 an hour. He said that wasn't enough to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ five-year-old daughter. He said: "I know I'm risking my job, but it's my (6) \_\_\_\_\_ what I deserve."

McDonald's and Burger King both spoke about the strike. They said they did not (7) \_\_\_\_\_ how much to pay workers in most of their restaurants. They said each restaurant is an (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and the manager decides how much to pay the staff. McDonald's profits were over \$5.5 billion in 2011. The (9) \_\_\_\_\_ say that an increase in wages would mean more expensive burgers. America's National Restaurant Association said the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ because the staff are young and have little (11) \_\_\_\_\_. It said: "Only five per cent of restaurant employees earn (12) \_\_\_\_\_ and those that do are [mainly] working part-time and half are teenagers."

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage.html>

1. In how many cities did fast-food workers go on strike?

---

2. How much is the minimum wage in the USA?

---

3. When was the last time the minimum wage increased?

---

4. How much are the fast-work workers asking for?

---

5. How much does Julio Wilson get paid?

---

6. Who makes decisions about workers' pay in McDonald's?

---

7. How much profit did McDonald's make in 2011?

---

8. What would happen to burgers of workers got more pay?

---

9. How many fast-food workers earn the minimum wage?

---

10. How many fast-food workers are teenagers?

---



# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage.html>

1. In how many cities did fast-food workers go on strike?
  - a) 85
  - b) 508
  - c) 580
  - d) 58
2. How much is the minimum wage in the USA?
  - a) \$7.35
  - b) \$7.25
  - c) \$7.55
  - d) \$7.95
3. When was the last time the minimum wage increased?
  - a) 2007
  - b) 2008
  - c) 2009
  - d) 2010
4. How much are the fast-work workers asking for?
  - a) \$15
  - b) \$12
  - c) \$10
  - d) \$9
5. How much does Julio Wilson get paid?
  - a) \$7
  - b) \$8
  - c) \$9
  - d) \$10
6. Who makes decisions about workers' pay in McDonald's?
  - a) the CEO
  - b) managers
  - c) accountants
  - d) human resources officers
7. What was McDonald's profit in 2011?
  - a) \$5.55 billion
  - b) less than \$5.5 billion
  - c) \$5.5 billion
  - d) more than \$5.5 billion
8. What would happen to burgers of workers got more pay?
  - a) they'd go up in price
  - b) they would be more delicious
  - c) there would be less meat
  - d) nothing
9. How many fast-food workers earn the minimum wage?
  - a) 50%
  - b) 15%
  - c) 5%
  - d) 0.5%
10. How many fast-food workers are teenagers?
  - a) 35%
  - b) 50%
  - c) 65%
  - d) 75%

# ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage.html>

## **Role A – Fast-food worker**

You think a fast-food worker is the worst job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are good about their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the best of these (and why): cashier, English teacher or farm worker.

## **Role B – Cashier**

You think a cashier is the worst job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are good about their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the best of these (and why): fast-food worker, English teacher or farm worker.

## **Role C – English teacher**

You think an English teacher is the worst job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are good about their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the best of these (and why): cashier, fast-food worker or farm worker.

## **Role D – Farm worker**

You think a farm worker is the worst job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are good about their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the best of these (and why): cashier, English teacher or fast-food worker.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage.html>

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

<b>part</b>	<b>time</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>• 58</li><li>• 7.25</li><li>• 2009</li><li>• 15</li><li>• 9</li><li>• 5</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• decisions</li><li>• manager</li><li>• profits</li><li>• expensive</li><li>• little</li><li>• half</li></ul>
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# WAGES / SALARY SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage.html>

Write five GOOD questions about wages / 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.

# WAGES / SALARY DISCUSSION

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

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'worker'?
- c) What do you think about working in a fast-food restaurant?
- d) Is \$7.25 an hour OK for a fast-food worker?
- e) Is it wrong the minimum wage in the USA hasn't changed since 2009?
- f) What do people do when they cannot afford to live?
- g) Do you think the workers deserve to have their pay doubled?
- h) Would you work in a fast-food restaurant?
- i) Is it right to go on strike?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the cashier Julio Wilson?

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# WAGES / SALARY DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Should McDonald's and Burger King increase workers' pay?
- c) What do you think of the service in fast-food restaurants?
- d) How can fast-food restaurants improve?
- e) Would you pay more for a burger to give the staff a higher salary?
- f) Should all young people be paid so little?
- g) How do the public treat fast-food workers?
- h) Will you say something nice to the staff next time you go to a fast-food restaurant?
- i) Which is better, working in a fast-food restaurant or on a farm?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the CEO of McDonald's?

## **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/1309/130901-minimum-wage.html>

Fast-food workers in 58 cities in the USA did not go to work on Thursday. They went (1) \_\_\_\_\_ strike because they want more money. The workers currently get (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the minimum wage. This was set at \$7.25 in 2009 and has not changed (3) \_\_\_\_\_ then. Many workers say they cannot afford to live on that. The price of everything has gone up but their wages have stayed the same for five years. The workers want \$15 an hour, which is (4) \_\_\_\_\_ their current rate. Julio Wilson, a cashier at a pizza restaurant, told the BBC he (5) \_\_\_\_\_ \$9 an hour. He said that wasn't enough to support himself and his five-year-old daughter. He said: "I know I'm risking my job, but it's my (6) \_\_\_\_\_ to fight for what I deserve."

McDonald's and Burger King both spoke about the strike. They said they did not (7) \_\_\_\_\_ decisions about how much to pay workers in most of their restaurants. They said each restaurant is an (8) \_\_\_\_\_ franchise and the manager decides how much to pay the staff. McDonald's profits were over \$5.5 billion in 2011. The burger (9) \_\_\_\_\_ did say that an increase in wages would mean more expensive burgers. America's National Restaurant Association said the wages were (10) \_\_\_\_\_ because the staff are young and have (11) \_\_\_\_\_ work experience. It said: "Only five per cent of restaurant employees earn the minimum wage and (12) \_\_\_\_\_ that do are [mainly] working part-time and half are teenagers."

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

- |     |                  |                   |                 |                    |
|-----|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1.  | (a) in           | (b) on            | (c) of          | (d) as             |
| 2.  | (a) pay          | (b) paid          | (c) paying      | (d) pays           |
| 3.  | (a) for          | (b) around        | (c) ever        | (d) since          |
| 4.  | (a) treble       | (b) double        | (c) triple      | (d) doubled        |
| 5.  | (a) learns       | (b) earns         | (c) urns        | (d) ferns          |
| 6.  | (a) write        | (b) rite          | (c) right       | (d) rate           |
| 7.  | (a) have         | (b) do            | (c) make        | (d) think          |
| 8.  | (a) independence | (b) independently | (c) independent | (d) interdependent |
| 9.  | (a) jumbos       | (b) ogres         | (c) monsters    | (d) giants         |
| 10. | (a) low          | (b) short         | (c) cheap       | (d) small          |
| 11. | (a) little       | (b) small         | (c) few         | (d) enough         |
| 12. | (a) them         | (b) they          | (c) those       | (d) their          |

# SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. they cannot rdaffo to live on that
2. eloubd their current rate
3. a hsrecia at a pizza restaurant
4. that wasn't enough to rtosppu himself
5. his five-year-old hdargtue
6. fight for what I veedres

## Paragraph 2

7. they did not make disoisecn
8. an pnindeetend franchise
9. McDonald's sotfrpi were over \$5.5 billion
10. an niecrsae in wages
11. have little work renepcieex
12. restaurant lmeyepose



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage.html>

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

- ( ) were over \$5.5 billion in 2011. The burger giants did say that an increase in wages would mean more expensive
- ( ) decisions about how much to pay workers in most of their restaurants. They said each restaurant is an
- ( ) the minimum wage and those that do are [mainly] working part-time and half are teenagers."
- ( ) at \$7.25 in 2009 and has not changed since then. Many workers say they cannot afford to live
- ( ) hour, which is double their current rate. Julio Wilson, a cashier at a pizza restaurant, told the BBC he earns
- ( ) burgers. America's National Restaurant Association said the wages were low because the staff
- ( ) on strike because they want more money. The workers currently get paid the minimum wage. This was set
- ( ) \$9 an hour. He said that wasn't enough to support himself and his five-year-old
- ( ) on that. The price of everything has gone up but their wages have stayed the same for five years. The workers want \$15 an
- ( ) independent franchise and the manager decides how much to pay the staff. McDonald's profits
- ( ) are young and have little work experience. It said: "Only five per cent of restaurant employees earn
- ( **1** ) Fast-food workers in 58 cities in the USA did not go to work on Thursday. They went
- ( ) 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 both spoke about the strike. They said they did not make

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage.html>

1. workers say they cannot afford to live on that Many.

---

2. wages the five Their stayed for have same years.

---

3. that himself wasn't enough He to said support.

---

4. know I'm risking my job ." He said : " I

---

5. fight for My what right I to deserve.

---

6. not make decisions about how much to pay They did.

---

7. manager much the The how pay decides to staff.

---

8. expensive An wages more in mean burgers increase would.

---

9. staff were are low young because the Wages.

---

10. of restaurant employees earn the minimum wage Only 5%.

---

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage.html>

Fast-food workers in 58 cities in the USA did not go *for / to* work on Thursday. They went *on / in* strike because they want *most / more* money. The workers currently get paid the minimum wage. This was *get / set* at \$7.25 in 2009 and has not changed *since / for* then. Many workers say they cannot afford to live on that. The price of everything has gone *increase / up* but their wages have stayed the same *from / for* five years. The workers want \$15 an hour, which is double their *current / currant* rate. Julio Wilson, a cashier at a pizza restaurant, told the BBC he earns \$9 *a / an* hour. He said that wasn't enough to support himself and his five-year-old daughter. He said: "I know I'm risking my job, but it's my *write / right* to fight for what I deserve."

McDonald's and Burger King *both / all* spoke about the strike. They said they did not make decisions about how *many / much* to pay workers in most of their restaurants. They said each restaurant is an *independence / independent* franchise and the manager decides how much to pay the *stuff / staff*. McDonald's profits *were / was* over \$5.5 billion in 2011. The burger giants did say that an increase in wages would *meant / mean* more expensive burgers. America's National Restaurant Association said the wages were *low / cheap* because the staff are young and have *few / little* work experience. It said: "Only five per cent *of / for* restaurant employees earn the minimum wage and *those / them* that do are [mainly] working part-time and half are teenagers."

**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/1309/130901-minimum-wage.html>

F\_st-f\_\_d w\_rk\_rs \_n 58 c\_t\_\_s \_n th\_\_ S\_\_ d\_\_d n\_t g\_\_  
t\_\_ w\_rk \_\_n Th\_rsd\_y. Th\_y w\_\_nt \_\_n str\_k\_\_ b\_\_c\_\_s\_\_ th\_y  
w\_\_nt m\_\_r\_\_ m\_\_n\_y. Th\_\_ w\_rk\_rs c\_\_rr\_\_ntly g\_\_t p\_\_d th\_\_  
m\_\_n\_\_m\_\_m w\_g\_\_. Th\_s w\_\_s s\_\_t\_\_t \$7.25 \_\_n 2009 \_\_nd h\_\_s  
n\_\_t ch\_\_ng\_\_d s\_\_nc\_\_ th\_\_n. M\_\_ny w\_rk\_rs s\_\_y th\_y c\_\_nn\_\_t  
\_\_ff\_\_rd t\_\_ l\_\_v\_\_ \_\_n th\_\_t. Th\_\_ pr\_\_c\_\_ \_\_f \_\_v\_\_ryth\_\_ng h\_\_s  
g\_\_n\_\_ \_\_p\_\_ b\_\_t th\_\_r w\_g\_s h\_\_v\_\_ st\_\_y\_\_d th\_\_ s\_\_m\_\_ f\_\_r  
f\_\_v\_\_ y\_\_rs. Th\_\_ w\_rk\_rs w\_\_nt \$15 \_\_n h\_\_r, wh\_\_ch \_\_s  
d\_\_bl\_\_ th\_\_r c\_\_rr\_\_nt r\_\_t\_\_. J\_\_l\_\_ W\_\_ls\_n, \_\_c\_\_sh\_\_r\_\_t  
\_\_p\_\_zz\_\_ r\_\_st\_\_r\_\_nt, t\_\_ld th\_\_ BBC h\_\_ \_\_rns \$9 \_\_n h\_\_r.  
H\_\_s\_\_d th\_\_t w\_\_sn't \_\_n\_\_gh t\_\_ s\_\_pp\_\_rt h\_\_ms\_\_lf \_\_nd h\_\_s  
f\_\_v\_\_-y\_\_r-ld d\_\_ght\_r. H\_\_s\_\_d: "\_\_kn\_\_w \_\_'m r\_\_sk\_\_ng  
my j\_\_b, b\_\_t \_\_t's my r\_\_ght t\_\_f\_\_ght f\_\_r wh\_\_t \_\_d\_\_s\_\_rv\_\_."

McD\_\_n\_\_ld's \_\_nd B\_\_rg\_\_r K\_\_ng b\_\_th sp\_\_k\_\_ \_\_b\_\_t th\_\_  
str\_k\_\_. Th\_y s\_\_d th\_y d\_\_d n\_\_t m\_\_k\_\_ d\_\_c\_\_s\_\_ns \_\_b\_\_t  
h\_\_w m\_\_ch t\_\_p\_\_y w\_rk\_rs \_\_n m\_\_st \_\_f th\_\_r r\_\_st\_\_r\_\_nts.  
Th\_y s\_\_d \_\_ch\_\_ r\_\_st\_\_r\_\_nt \_\_s \_\_n \_\_nd p\_\_nd\_\_nt  
fr\_nch\_s\_\_ \_\_nd th\_\_ m\_\_n\_g\_\_r d\_\_c\_\_d\_\_s\_\_ h\_\_w m\_\_ch t\_\_p\_\_y  
th\_\_st\_\_ff. McD\_\_n\_\_ld's pr\_\_f\_\_ts w\_\_r\_\_ \_\_v\_\_r \$5.5 b\_\_ll\_\_n \_\_n  
2011. Th\_\_ b\_\_rg\_\_r g\_\_nts d\_\_d s\_\_y th\_\_t \_\_n \_\_ncr\_\_s\_\_ \_\_n  
w\_g\_s w\_\_ld m\_\_n m\_\_r\_\_ \_\_xp\_\_ns\_\_v\_\_ b\_\_rg\_rs. \_\_m\_\_r\_\_c\_\_'s  
N\_\_t\_\_n\_\_l R\_\_st\_\_r\_\_nt \_\_ss\_\_c\_\_t\_\_n s\_\_d th\_\_ w\_g\_s w\_\_r\_\_  
l\_\_w b\_\_c\_\_s\_\_ th\_\_st\_\_ff \_\_r\_\_y\_\_ng \_\_nd h\_\_v\_\_ l\_\_ttl\_\_ w\_rk  
\_\_xp\_\_r\_\_nc\_\_. \_\_t s\_\_d: "\_\_nly f\_\_v\_\_ p\_\_rc\_\_nt \_\_f r\_\_st\_\_r\_\_nt  
\_\_mpl\_\_y\_\_s \_\_rn th\_\_ m\_\_n\_\_m\_\_m w\_g\_\_ \_\_nd th\_\_s\_\_ th\_\_t d\_\_  
\_\_r\_\_ [m\_\_nly] w\_rk\_\_ng p\_\_rt-t\_\_m\_\_ \_\_nd h\_\_lf \_\_r\_\_  
t\_\_n\_g\_rs."

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage.html>

fast-food workers in 58 cities in the usa did not go to work on thursday they went on strike because they want more money the workers currently get paid the minimum wage this was set at \$7.25 in 2009 and has not changed since then many workers say they cannot afford to live on that the price of everything has gone up but their wages have stayed the same for five years the workers want \$15 an hour which is double their current rate julio wilson a cashier at a pizza restaurant told the bbc he earns \$9 an hour he said that wasn't enough to support himself and his five-year-old 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 both spoke about the strike they said they did not make decisions about how much to pay workers in most of their restaurants they said each restaurant is an independent franchise and the manager decides how much to pay the staff mcdonald's profits were over \$55 billion in 2011 the burger giants did say that an increase in wages would mean more expensive burgers america's national restaurant association said the wages were low because the staff are young and have little work experience it said "only five per cent of restaurant employees earn the minimum wage and those that do are [mainly] working part-time and half are teenagers"

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage.html>

Fast-food workers in 58 cities in the USA did not go to work on Thursday. They went on strike because they want more money. The workers currently get paid the minimum wage. This was set at \$7.25 in 2009 and has not changed since then. Many workers say they cannot afford to live on that. The price of everything has gone up but their wages have stayed the same for five years. The workers want \$15 an hour, which is double their current rate. Julio Wilson, a cashier at a pizza restaurant, told the BBC he earns \$9 an hour. He said that wasn't enough to support himself and his five-year-old 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 both spoke about the strike. They said they did not make decisions about how much to pay workers in most of their restaurants. They said each restaurant is an independent franchise and the manager decides how much to pay the staff. McDonald's profits were over \$5.5 billion in 2011. The burger giants did say that an increase in wages would mean more expensive burgers. America's National Restaurant Association said that wages were low because the staff are young and have little work experience. It said: "Only five percent of restaurant employees earn the minimum wage and those that do are [mainly] working part-time and half are teenagers."







# 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 wages / salary. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. WAGES / SALARY:** Make a poster about wages / salary. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. FAST-FOOD WORKERS:** Write a magazine article about how much pay fast-food workers should get. Include imaginary interviews with workers and restaurant bosses.

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 a fast-food worker. Ask him/her three questions about wages / salary. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to get more pay. 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 T    c F    d F    e T    f F    g T    h F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. workers   | a. employees    |
| 2. currently | b. presently    |
| 3. live      | c. survive      |
| 4. earns     | d. is paid      |
| 5. deserve   | e. merit        |
| 6. pay       | f. reward       |
| 7. increase  | g. rise         |
| 8. mean      | h. lead to      |
| 9. low       | i. poor         |
| 10. minimum  | j. lowest level |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. 58
2. \$7.25
3. 2009
4. \$15
5. \$9 an hour
6. Restaurant managers
7. Over \$5.5 billion
8. Their price would go up
9. 5%
10. Half

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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