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Level 5

Venezuela introduces 2-day working week

29th April, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1604/160429-working-week-5.html>

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Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1604/160429-working-week-5.html>

Venezuela has taken a drastic step to deal with the country's growing energy problems. It has told all state employees to work just two days a week. Public workers were already on four days a week after Fridays became a no-work day two months ago. The country's 2.8 million public workers will now have five days off a week. The president said in a televised statement: "From tomorrow, for at least two weeks, we are going to have Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays as non-working days." Employees will still be paid in full, despite the reduced working week.

The government blames the energy crisis on droughts and on El Nino. Water in dams is dangerously low. The Guri region, home to the nation's biggest dam, was likened to a desert. Critics say bad management, a lack of investment and corruption are behind the current mess. Venezuelans are facing daily disruptions to their lives. The government asked women to use hair dryers less and shopping malls to use their own electricity generators. Electricity is rationed in most of the country. The president even turned the clocks back to provide half-an-hour of extra evening sunlight.

Sources: <http://time.com/4308909/venezuela-two-day-work-week-energy-crisis/>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/04/27/pic--pub-venezuela-introduces-two-day-week-to-save-energy/>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-36145184>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1604/160429-working-week-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Venezuela has taken a drastic | a. employees |
| 2. deal | b. paid in full |
| 3. the country's growing | c. off a week |
| 4. state | d. statement |
| 5. have five days | e. step |
| 6. in a televised | f. with |
| 7. for at least | g. energy problems |
| 8. Employees will still be | h. two weeks |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. blames the energy crisis | a. in most of the country |
| 2. likened | b. on droughts |
| 3. a lack | c. to their lives |
| 4. facing daily disruptions | d. sunlight |
| 5. electricity | e. to a desert |
| 6. Electricity is rationed | f. clocks back |
| 7. turned the | g. generators |
| 8. evening | h. of investment |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1604/160429-working-week-5.html>

Venezuela has taken (1) _____ deal with the country's growing energy problems. It has told (2) _____ to work just two days a week. Public workers were already on four days a week after Fridays became (3) _____ two months ago. The country's 2.8 million public workers will now have (4) _____ week. The president said in (5) _____: "From tomorrow, for at least two weeks, we are going to have Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays as non-working days." Employees will still (6) _____, despite the reduced working week.

The government (7) _____ crisis on droughts and on El Nino. Water in dams is dangerously low. The Guri region, home to the nation's biggest dam, (8) _____ desert. Critics say bad management, a (9) _____ and corruption are behind the current mess. Venezuelans (10) _____ disruptions to their lives. The government asked women to (11) _____ and shopping malls to use their own electricity generators. Electricity is rationed in most of the country. The president even turned the clocks back to provide half-an-hour (12) _____ sunlight.

THE WORKING WEEK SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1604/160429-working-week-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about the working week 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)

g)

h)

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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)

g)

h)

