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Level 3

Toyota closes elevators to save money

10th July, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1607/160710-elevators.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/1607/160710-elevators.html>

The car company Toyota is shutting down two elevators at its global headquarters to save money. The world's largest automaker said on Thursday it will shut down two of eight elevators at its main Tokyo office. This is to save electricity and to cut down on the costs of operating the building. One reason for this new move is the strengthening Japanese yen. The yen has become much stronger since the UK voted to leave the EU on June the 23rd. One dollar bought nearly 120 yen in January; now it buys just above 100. A stronger yen means Toyota cars sold overseas are more expensive and profits go down. Toyota's profit for the year ending March 2016 was a record ¥2.31 trillion, which is around \$23 billion.

A Toyota spokeswoman said the company decided to shut down the elevators several weeks ago because of the rising yen. The company is also adjusting the temperature of air conditioners to save money. The spokeswoman said Toyota took similar cost-cutting measures after the financial crisis that happened in September 2008. That also made the yen strengthen against the dollar. The spokeswoman said: "These policies are not new." She added: "The key objective for the stoppage of elevators specifically is to raise awareness amongst employees, and to remind them of the commitment that Toyota has towards the idea of increasing competitiveness through staying lean and reducing waste."

Sources: <http://www.wsj.com/articles/at-toyota-elevators-stop-as-yen-rises-1467883278>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-36742652>
<https://www.rt.com/business/350191-toyota-shuts-lifts-yen/>

WARM-UPS

1. ELEVATORS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about elevators. 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?

elevators / global / headquarters / electricity / yen / overseas / profits / billion / spokeswoman / adjusting / temperature / air conditioners / financial crisis / employee

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

3. LAZY: Students A **strongly** believe elevators make people lazy; Students B **strongly** believe they don't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. SAVINGS: How can people make savings with these things? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How to make savings	Will you do this?
Water		
Mobile phones		
Tissues		
Fast food		
Presents		
Gaming		

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

6. USE LESS: Rank these with your partner. Put the easiest things to use less of at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- electric lights
- cars
- TV
- air con / heating
- washing machines
- fridges
- mobile phones
- kettles

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1607/160710-elevators.html>

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

- a. The carmaker Toyota is shutting down two elevators to save money. **T / F**
- b. There are eight elevators in Toyota's headquarters in Tokyo. **T / F**
- c. A reason for Toyota closing elevators is the stronger Japanese yen. **T / F**
- d. Toyota made a profit of \$2.31 billion in the year ending March 2016. **T / F**
- e. Toyota decided to shut down the elevators several months ago. **T / F**
- f. Toyota is also adjusting air-con temperatures to save money. **T / F**
- g. A spokeswoman said the key objective was to save money. **T / F**
- h. The spokeswoman said the company does not want to be lean. **T / F**

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

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. shutting | a. actions |
| 2. global | b. exit |
| 3. operating | c. a number of |
| 4. leave | d. running |
| 5. record | e. closing |
| 6. several | f. aim |
| 7. adjusting | g. workers |
| 8. measures | h. best performance |
| 9. objective | i. modifying |
| 10. employees | j. worldwide |

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

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. at its global | a. crisis |
| 2. cut down on the costs of | b. overseas |
| 3. One dollar bought | c. of air conditioners |
| 4. Toyota cars sold | d. yen |
| 5. profit for the year | e. headquarters |
| 6. because of the rising | f. amongst employees |
| 7. adjusting the temperature | g. nearly 120 yen |
| 8. the financial | h. objective |
| 9. key | i. ending March 2016 |
| 10. raise awareness | j. operating the building |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1607/160710-elevators.html>

The car company Toyota is (1) _____ down two elevators at its global headquarters to save money. The world's largest (2) _____ said on Thursday it will shut down two of eight elevators at its (3) _____ Tokyo office. This is to save electricity and to cut down on the (4) _____ of operating the building. One reason for this new move is the strengthening Japanese yen. The yen has become much stronger (5) _____ the UK voted to leave the EU on June the 23rd. One dollar bought (6) _____ 120 yen in January; now it buys just above 100. A stronger yen means Toyota cars sold (7) _____ are more expensive and profits go down. Toyota's profit for the year ending March 2016 was a (8) _____ ¥2.31 trillion, which is around \$23 billion.

main
nearly
automaker
record
shutting
since
overseas
costs

A Toyota spokeswoman said the company (9) _____ to shut down the elevators several weeks ago because of the (10) _____ yen. The company is also adjusting the temperature of air conditioners to save money. The spokeswoman said Toyota took (11) _____ cost-cutting measures after the financial (12) _____ that happened in September 2008. That also made the yen strengthen against the dollar. The spokeswoman said: "These (13) _____ are not new." She added: "The (14) _____ objective for the stoppage of elevators specifically is to raise awareness amongst employees, and to (15) _____ them of the commitment that Toyota has towards the idea of increasing competitiveness through staying lean and reducing (16) _____."

similar
policies
remind
decided
waste
rising
key
crisis

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1607/160710-elevators.html>

- 1) Toyota is shutting down two elevators at its global headquarters _____
 - a. to saver money
 - b. to serve money
 - c. to sieve money
 - d. to save money
- 2) it will shut down two of eight elevators at its _____
 - a. main Tokyo office
 - b. mains Tokyo office
 - c. mine Tokyo office
 - d. mean Tokyo office
- 3) This is to save electricity and to cut down on the costs of _____
 - a. operate in a building
 - b. operating in the building
 - c. operating a building
 - d. operating the building
- 4) One dollar bought nearly 120 yen in January; now it buys _____
 - a. just above 100
 - b. justly above 100
 - c. adjust above 100
 - d. juiced above 100
- 5) Toyota's profit for the year ending March 2016 was a record _____
 - a. ¥2.31 quadrillion
 - b. ¥2.31 trillion
 - c. ¥2.31 triplets
 - d. ¥2.31 trill
- 6) A Toyota spokeswoman said the company decided to shut down the elevators _____
 - a. sever all weeks ago
 - b. severe all weeks ago
 - c. several weeks ago
 - d. overalls weeks ago
- 7) The spokeswoman said Toyota took similar cost-cutting measures after _____
 - a. the financially crisis
 - b. the finance shall crisis
 - c. the financial crisis
 - d. the financial cry sis
- 8) That also made the yen strengthen _____
 - a. again the dollar
 - b. against the dollar
 - c. against a dollar
 - d. against the dollars
- 9) The key objective for the stoppage of elevators specifically is _____
 - a. to rise awareness
 - b. to raise awareness
 - c. to rates awareness
 - d. to race awareness
- 10) the idea of increasing competitiveness through staying lean and _____
 - a. reduces waste
 - b. reduce in waste
 - c. reduction waste
 - d. reducing waste

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1607/160710-elevators.html>

The car company Toyota (1) _____ two elevators at its global headquarters to save money. The world's largest automaker said on Thursday it will shut down two of eight elevators at its main Tokyo office. This is (2) _____ and to cut down on the costs of operating the building. One reason for (3) _____ the strengthening Japanese yen. The yen has become (4) _____ the UK voted to leave the EU on June the 23rd. One dollar bought nearly 120 yen in January; now it (5) _____ 100. A stronger yen means Toyota cars sold overseas are more expensive and profits go down. Toyota's profit for the year ending March 2016 (6) _____ ¥2.31 trillion, which is around \$23 billion.

A Toyota spokeswoman said the company decided to shut down the elevators (7) _____ because of the rising yen. The company (8) _____ temperature of air conditioners to save money. The spokeswoman said Toyota took similar cost-cutting measures after the financial crisis (9) _____ September 2008. That also made the yen strengthen against the dollar. The spokeswoman said: "These policies are not new." She added: "The (10) _____ the stoppage of elevators (11) _____ raise awareness amongst employees, and to remind them of the commitment that Toyota has towards the idea of increasing competitiveness (12) _____ and reducing waste."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1607/160710-elevators.html>

1. How many elevators is Toyota shutting down?
2. How many elevators are there in Toyota's Tokyo HQ?
3. What is strengthening that made Toyota make cuts?
4. What happens to the price of Toyota cars if the yen is stronger?
5. How much profit did Toyota make for the year ending March 2016?
6. When did Toyota decide to close down the elevators?
7. What else is Toyota adjusting to save money?
8. In what year did Toyota previously make cost-cutting measures?
9. What does the company want to raise among its workers?
10. What does the company want to reduce?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1607/160710-elevators.html>

- 1) How many elevators is Toyota shutting down?
 - a) 2
 - b) 20
 - c) 200
 - d) 2,000
- 2) How many elevators are there in Toyota's Tokyo HQ?
 - a) 88
 - b) 80
 - c) 8
 - d) 18
- 3) What is strengthening that made Toyota make cuts?
 - a) robots
 - b) the yen
 - c) steel
 - d) competition
- 4) What happens to the price of Toyota cars if the yen is stronger?
 - a) they become cheaper
 - b) they become unaffordable
 - c) nothing
 - d) they become more expensive
- 5) How much profit did Toyota make for the year ending March 2016?
 - a) ¥2.31 trillion / \$23 billion
 - b) ¥3.31 trillion / \$32 billion
 - c) ¥3.21 trillion / \$2.3 billion
 - d) ¥2.13 trillion / \$3.2 billion
- 6) When did Toyota decide to close down the elevators?
 - a) 2008
 - b) yesterday
 - c) last week
 - d) several weeks ago
- 7) What else is Toyota adjusting to save money?
 - a) workers' belts
 - b) air-con temperatures
 - c) robots
 - d) assembly lines
- 8) In what year did Toyota previously make cost-cutting measures?
 - a) 2004
 - b) 2010
 - c) 2006
 - d) 2008
- 9) What does the company want to raise among its workers?
 - a) working conditions
 - b) salaries
 - c) awareness
 - d) issues
- 10) What does the company want to reduce?
 - a) cars
 - b) waste
 - c) salaries
 - d) production

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1607/160710-elevators.html>

Role A – Kettles

You think kettles are the easiest things to use less of. Tell the others three reasons why and how. Tell them why we can easily use less of their things. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): TV, electric lights or washing machines.

Role B – TV

You think TV is the easiest thing to use less of. Tell the others three reasons why and how. Tell them why we can easily use less of their things. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): kettles, electric lights or washing machines.

Role C – Electric lights

You think electric lights are the easiest things to use less of. Tell the others three reasons why and how. Tell them why we can easily use less of their things. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): TV, kettles or washing machines.

Role D – Washing machines

You think washing machines are the easiest things to use less of. Tell the others three reasons why and how. Tell them why we can easily use less of their things. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): TV, electric lights or kettles.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1607/160710-elevators.html>

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

shut	down
-------------	-------------

- 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">• global• eight• reason• leave• sold• year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• several• air• similar• policies• key• waste
---	--

ELEVATORS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1607/160710-elevators.html>

Write five GOOD questions about elevators 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.

ELEVATORS DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What springs to mind when you hear the word 'elevator'?
3. What do you think of Toyota for closing two of its elevators?
4. How important are elevators?
5. Why do people use an elevator to go up or down one floor?
6. How much money do you think Toyota will save?
7. What happens when the dollar becomes stronger or weaker?
8. What do you know about the Japanese yen?
9. How will the world change because the UK is leaving the EU?
10. What do you think of Toyota cars?

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ELEVATORS DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What other things can Toyota do to save money?
13. Should elevators not stop for just one or two floors?
14. Should governments set a limit on air conditioner temperatures?
15. What do you know about the financial crisis of 2008?
16. How can we get people to use elevators less?
17. What do you do to save energy?
18. Will you use the elevator less often from now?
19. What things do you waste every day?
20. What questions would you like to ask the boss of Toyota?

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/1607/160710-elevators.html>

The car company Toyota is shutting down two elevators at its (1) _____ headquarters to save money. The world's largest automaker said on Thursday it will shut down two of eight elevators at its (2) _____ Tokyo office. This is to save electricity and to cut down on the costs of (3) _____ the building. One reason for this new move is the strengthening Japanese yen. The yen has become (4) _____ stronger since the UK voted to leave the EU on June the 23rd. One dollar bought nearly 120 yen in January; now it buys just (5) _____ 100. A stronger yen means Toyota cars sold overseas are more expensive and profits go down. Toyota's profit for the year (6) _____ March 2016 was a record ¥2.31 trillion, which is around \$23 billion.

A Toyota spokeswoman said the company decided to shut down the elevators (7) _____ weeks ago because of the rising yen. The company is also (8) _____ the temperature of air conditioners to save money. The spokeswoman said Toyota took similar cost-cutting (9) _____ after the financial crisis that happened in September 2008. That also made the yen (10) _____ against the dollar. The spokeswoman said: "These policies are not new." She added: "The (11) _____ objective for the stoppage of elevators specifically is to raise awareness amongst employees, and to remind them of the commitment that Toyota has towards the idea of increasing competitiveness through staying (12) _____ and reducing waste."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) globe | (b) globally | (c) global | (d) globalise |
| 2. | (a) main | (b) gain | (c) pain | (d) vain |
| 3. | (a) operating | (b) operates | (c) operative | (d) operational |
| 4. | (a) much | (b) many | (c) more | (d) most |
| 5. | (a) tops | (b) high | (c) up | (d) above |
| 6. | (a) stops | (b) final | (c) finished | (d) ending |
| 7. | (a) several | (b) tiny | (c) various | (d) seen |
| 8. | (a) adjusts | (b) adjusted | (c) adjust | (d) adjusting |
| 9. | (a) measures | (b) rulers | (c) tapes | (d) metrics |
| 10. | (a) strongly | (b) strengthen | (c) stringent | (d) stronghold |
| 11. | (a) view | (b) key | (c) label | (d) rise |
| 12. | (a) lean | (b) wean | (c) bean | (d) teen |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1607/160710-elevators.html>

Paragraph 1

1. at its global aaugesethrdr
2. save tecyrecilti
3. the costs of operating the uniibldg
4. tnnteehsirgng Japanese yen
5. cars sold soaevrse
6. fporit for the year ending March

Paragraph 2

7. eaveslr weeks ago
8. tnidagujs the temperature
9. after the iaanfincl crisis
10. The key tijobevce
11. raise ssarwanee amongst employees
12. staying lean and cenigudr waste

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1607/160710-elevators.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () down. Toyota's profit for the year ending March 2016 was a record ¥2.31 trillion, which is around \$23 billion.
- () for this new move is the strengthening Japanese yen. The yen has become much stronger since the UK voted to
- (**1**) The car company Toyota is shutting down two elevators at its global headquarters to save money. The world's
- () yen. The company is also adjusting the temperature of air conditioners to save money. The spokeswoman said Toyota
- () office. This is to save electricity and to cut down on the costs of operating the building. One reason
- () employees, and to remind them of the commitment that Toyota has towards the idea of
- () A Toyota spokeswoman said the company decided to shut down the elevators several weeks ago because of the rising
- () the yen strengthen against the dollar. The spokeswoman said: "These policies are not
- () largest automaker said on Thursday it will shut down two of eight elevators at its main Tokyo
- () leave the EU on June the 23rd. One dollar bought nearly 120 yen in January; now it buys just
- () new." She added: "The key objective for the stoppage of elevators specifically is to raise awareness amongst
- () above 100. A stronger yen means Toyota cars sold overseas are more expensive and profits go
- () increasing competitiveness through staying lean and reducing waste."
- () took similar cost-cutting measures after the financial crisis that happened in September 2008. That also made

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1607/160710-elevators.html>

1. two down Shutting headquarters global its at elevators .
2. the the building costs Cut of down operating on .
3. strengthening reason new the One this is yen for move .
4. more profits Cars are and down overseas expensive go sold .
5. was the ending 2016 a March year record for profit Toyota's .
6. several shut weeks down ago the Decided elevators to .
7. save of money air Adjusting conditioners the to temperature .
8. financial cutting crisis measures Similar after cost the - .
9. against made the the dollar yen That strengthen also .
10. remind to and employees amongst awareness Raise them .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1607/160710-elevators.html>

The car company Toyota is *shutting / shut* down two elevators at its global headquarters to save money. The world's largest automaker said on Thursday it will shut down two *of / for* eight elevators at its *mainly / main* Tokyo office. This is to *save / saving* electricity and to cut *up / down* on the costs of operating the building. One reason for this new move is the *strong / strengthening* Japanese yen. The yen has become much stronger *for / since* the UK voted to leave the EU on June the 23rd. One dollar *bring / bought* nearly 120 yen in January; now it buys just above 100. A stronger yen means Toyota cars sold *overseas / overseers* are more expensive and profits go down. Toyota's profit for the year ending March 2016 was a record ¥2.31 trillion, which is *abound / around* \$23 billion.

A Toyota spokeswoman said the company *decided / decision* to shut down the elevators several weeks ago because *for / of* the rising yen. The company is also *adjusting / adjusted* the temperature of air conditioners to save money. The spokeswoman said Toyota took *similarly / similar* cost-cutting *measurements / measures* after the financial crisis that happened in September 2008. That also made the yen strengthen *again / against* the dollar. The spokeswoman said: "These policies are not *new / newly*." She added: "The key *objective / objection* for the stoppage of elevators specifically is to *rise / raise* awareness amongst employees, and to remind them of the commitment that Toyota has towards the idea of increasing competitiveness through staying lean and reducing *wastes / waste*."

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/1607/160710-elevators.html>

Th_ c_r c_mp_ny T_y_t_ _s sh_tt_ng d_wn tw_ _l_v_t_rs _t _ts gl_b_l h__dq__rt_rs t_s_v_m_n_y. Th_ w_rld's l_rg_st __t_m_k_r s__d _n Th_rsd_y _t w_ll sh_t d_wn tw_ _f __ght _l_v_t_rs _t _ts m__n T_ky_ _ff_c_. Th_s _s t_s_v_ _l_ctr_c_ty _nd t_c_t d_wn _n th_c_sts _f _p_r_t_ng th_b__ld_ng. _n_r_s_n f_r th_s n_w m_v_ _s th_str_ngth_n_ng J_p_n_s_ y_n. Th_y_n h_s b_c_m_ m_ch str_ng_r s_nc_ th_ _K v_t_d t_l_v_ th_ __ _n J_n_ th_ 23rd. _n_d ll_r b__ght n__rly 120 y_n _n J_n__ry; n_w _t b_ys j_st b_v_ 100. _ str_ng_r y_n m__ns T_y_t_ c_rs s_ld _v_rs _s _r_m_r_ _xp_ns_v_ _nd pr_f_ts g_d_wn. T_y_t_'s pr_f_t_f_r th_y__r _nd_ng M_rch 2016 w_s _r_c_rd ¥2.31 tr_ll__n, wh_ch _s _r__nd \$23 b_ll__n.

_ T_y_t_ sp_k_sw_m_n s__d th_c_mp_ny d_c_d_d t_ sh_t d_wn th_ _l_v_t_rs s_v_r_l w__ks _g_b_c__s__f th_r_s_ng_y_n. Th_c_mp_ny _s _ls_ _dj_st_ng th_t mp_r_t_r_ _f __r c_nd_t__n_rs t_s_v_m_n_y. Th_sp_k_sw_m_n s__d T_y_t_ t__k s_m_l_r c_st-c_tt_ng m__s_r_s _ft_r th_f_n_nc__l cr_s_s th_t h_pp_n_d _n S_pt_mb_r 2008. Th_t _ls_ m_d_ th_y_n str_ngth_n _g__nst th_d_ll_r. Th_sp_k_sw_m_n s__d: "Th_s_p_l_c__s_r_n_t n_w." Sh__dd_d: "Th_k_y _bj_ct_v_f_r th_st_pp_g_ _f _l_v_t_rs sp_c_f_c_lly _s_t_r__s_ _w_r_n_ss _m_ngst _mpl_y__s, _nd t_r_m_nd th_m _f th_c_mm_tm_nt th_t T_y_t_ h_s t_w_rds th__d__ _f _ncr__s_ng c_mp_t_t_v_n_ss thr__gh st_y_ng l__n _nd r_d_c_ng w_st_."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1607/160710-elevators.html>

the car company toyota is shutting down two elevators at its global headquarters to save money the world's largest automaker said on thursday it will shut down two of eight elevators at its main tokyo office this is to save electricity and to cut down on the costs of operating the building one reason for this new move is the strengthening japanese yen the yen has become much stronger since the uk voted to leave the eu on june the 23rd one dollar bought nearly 120 yen in january now it buys just above 100 a stronger yen means toyota cars sold overseas are more expensive and profits go down toyota's profit for the year ending march 2016 was a record ¥231 trillion which is around \$23 billion

a toyota spokeswoman said the company decided to shut down the elevators several weeks ago because of the rising yen the company is also adjusting the temperature of air conditioners to save money the spokeswoman said toyota took similar cost-cutting measures after the financial crisis that happened in september 2008 that also made the yen strengthen against the dollar the spokeswoman said "these policies are not new" she added "the key objective for the stoppage of elevators specifically is to raise awareness amongst employees and to remind them of the commitment that toyota has towards the idea of increasing competitiveness through staying lean and reducing waste"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1607/160710-elevators.html>

The car company Toyota is shutting down two elevators at its global head quarter to save money. The world's largest automaker said on Thursday it will shut down two of eight elevators at its main Tokyo office. This is to save electricity and to cut down on the costs of operating the building. One reason for this new move is the strengthening Japanese yen. The yen has become much stronger since the UK voted to leave the EU on June the 23rd. One dollar bought nearly 120 yen in January; now it buys just above 100. As a stronger yen means Toyota cars sold overseas are more expensive and profits go down. Toyota's profit for the year ending March 2016 was a record ¥2.31 trillion, which is around \$23 billion. A Toyota spokeswoman said the company decided to shut down the elevators several weeks ago because of the rising yen. The company is also adjusting the temperature of air conditioners to save money. The spokeswoman said Toyota took similar cost-cutting measures after the financial crisis that happened in September 2008. That also made the yen strengthen against the dollar. The spokeswoman said: "These policies are not new." She added: "The key objective for the stoppage of elevators specifically is to raise awareness amongst employees, and to remind them of the commitment that Toyota has towards the idea of increasing competitiveness through staying lean and reducing waste."

ACADEMIC WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1607/160710-elevators.html>

No one should ever use an elevator to go up or down one or two floors. Discuss.

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 Toyota. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. DOLLAR-YEN: Make a poster about the dollar and yen. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. SAVINGS: Write a magazine article about Toyota shutting down two of its elevators at its Tokyo headquarters. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this to save money.

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 cost cutting. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how we can all cut costs. 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 T d F e F f T g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. shutting | a. closing |
| 2. global | b. worldwide |
| 3. operating | c. running |
| 4. leave | d. exit |
| 5. record | e. best performance |
| 6. several | f. a number of |
| 7. adjusting | g. modifying |
| 8. measures | h. actions |
| 9. objective | i. aim |
| 10. employees | j. workers |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Two
2. Eight
3. The Japanese yen
4. They become more expensive
5. ¥2.31 trillion / \$23 billion
6. Several weeks ago
7. Air conditioning temperatures
8. 2008
9. Awareness
10. Waste

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. a 2. c 3. b 4. d 5. a 6. d 7. b 8. d 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 ;-)