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Level 4

Bank of England staff to go on strike

5th July, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170705-bank-of-england-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170705-bank-of-england-4.html>

The Bank of England voted to strike for four days for higher pay. It will be the first strike by the Bank's staff in 50 years. Over 95 per cent of bankers who voted chose to strike. The Bank offered its workers a one per cent pay rise. However a third of staff may get no pay rise. The workers' union said that because the bank was unwilling to talk fairly, its offices in the City of London would not be able to work properly during the strike.

The Bank of England was set up in 1694. It is the world's second oldest central bank. Its workers are suffering financially. Their annual salary increase is capped at one per cent. Inflation is 2.9 per cent. The workers are taking action, "because of the bank's total refusal to accept that its workforce is struggling to meet their costs of living". It said it was "shameful" that an "iconic symbol of financial services is ignoring...hardworking staff."

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/business-40478754>
<https://www.ft.com/content/fbc9639a-6f4c-34e8-9fc6-2c86ae15abd6>
<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/bank-england-staff-set-first-strike-50-years-1628702>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170705-bank-of-england-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. strike for four days | a. no pay rise |
| 2. Over 95 per cent of bankers | b. properly |
| 3. The Bank offered its workers a | c. for higher pay |
| 4. a third of staff may get | d. strike |
| 5. The workers' | e. who voted |
| 6. the bank was unwilling | f. union said that |
| 7. be able to work | g. 1% pay rise |
| 8. during the | h. to talk fairly |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. The Bank of England was set | a. capped at 1% |
| 2. It is the world's second oldest | b. is struggling |
| 3. Its workers are suffering | c. symbol |
| 4. Their annual salary increase is | d. financially |
| 5. workers are | e. up in 1694 |
| 6. accept that its workforce | f. of living |
| 7. meet their costs | g. taking action |
| 8. an iconic | h. central bank |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170705-bank-of-england-4.html>

The Bank of England (1) _____ for four days for higher pay. (2) _____ first strike by the Bank's staff in 50 years. Over 95 per cent of bankers (3) _____ to strike. The Bank offered its workers a one per cent pay rise. However (4) _____ may get no pay rise. The workers' union said that because the bank was unwilling (5) _____, its offices in the City of London would not be able to work (6) _____ strike.

The Bank of England (7) _____ 1694. It is the world's second oldest central bank. Its workers are (8) _____. Their annual salary increase (9) _____ one per cent. Inflation is 2.9 per cent. The workers are taking action, "because of the bank's total (10) _____ that its workforce is struggling to meet their costs of living". It said it was "shameful" that (11) _____ of financial services is ignoring... (12) _____."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170705-bank-of-england-4.html>

TheBankofEnglandvotedtostrikeforfourdaysforhigherpay.Itwillbeth
efirststrikebytheBank'sstaffin50years.Over95percentofbankerswh
ovotedchosetostrike.TheBankoffereditsworkersaonepercentpayrise
.Howeverathirdofstaffmaygetnopayrise.Theworkers'unionsaidthat
becausethebankwasunwillingtotalkfairly,itsofficesintheCityofLondo
nwouldnotbeabletoworkproperlyduringthestrike.TheBankofEnglan
dwassetupin1694.Itistheworld'ssecondoldestcentralbank.Itsworke
rsaresufferingfinancially.Theirannualsalaryincreaseiscappedatonep
ercent.Inflationis2.9percent.Theworkersaretakingaction,"becauseo
fthebank'stotalrefusaltoacceptthatitsworkforceisstrugglingtomeett
heircostsofliving".Itsaiditwas"shameful"thatan"iconicsymboloffina
ncialservicesisignoring...hardworkingstaff."

BANKS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170705-bank-of-england-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about banks in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

