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Level 6

Bank of England staff to go on strike

5th July, 2017

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

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Please try Levels 5 and 4 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

Workers at the United Kingdom's central bank, the Bank of England, have voted to stage a four-day strike in support of a pay claim. It will be the first walkout by staff from the bank in over five decades. Over 95 per cent of bankers who voted opted for strike action over what they deem to be an unacceptable pay rise offer. The Bank offered its workers a collective one per cent pay rise for its staff. The deal means that a third of staff could get no pay increase at all. The union that represents the Bank's workers said: "The result of the Bank's unwillingness to negotiate fair pay will be that the Bank's sites, including the iconic Threadneedle Street [premises] in the City of London, will effectively be inoperable."

The Bank of England was established in 1694. It is the second oldest central bank in operation today. Workers at the bank are suffering along with millions more public sector staff in the UK who have had their annual salary increase capped at one per cent. This is below the level of inflation, which currently stands at 2.9 per cent. A union spokeswoman said workers would be taking action, "because of the bank's total refusal to accept that its workforce is struggling to meet their costs of living". She added: "It is nothing short of shameful that the iconic symbol of financial services in the UK is choosing to ride roughshod over the concerns of its dedicated and hardworking staff and impose this derisory pay deal."

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>

WARM-UPS

1. BANKS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about banks. 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?

central bank / strike / decades / pay rise / unacceptable / union / iconic / negotiate / established / suffering / annual / salary / inflation / costs of living / financial services

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

3. STRIKE: Students A **strongly** believe strikes should be made illegal; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. BANK WORKERS: What do you think it's like to be a bank worker? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Good things	Bad things
Pay		
Hours		
Boss(es)		
Stress		
Colleagues		
Customers		

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

6. WORKER: Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- good pay
- good boss
- chances for promotion
- interesting work
- great colleagues
- long holidays
- job satisfaction
- good place of work

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

- a. Bank of England staff will strike for four days. **T / F**
- b. It will be the first ever time for Bank of England staff to go on strike. **T / F**
- c. The Bank offered its staff a one per cent pay rise. **T / F**
- d. The workers' union said the bank will be inoperable during the strike. **T / F**
- e. The Bank of England was set up in 1649. **T / F**
- f. Millions of UK workers have had their pay rises capped. **T / F**
- g. The union said the Bank accepted its workers were struggling financially. **T / F**
- h. A union spokeswoman called the pay deal deserving. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. stage | a. unworkable |
| 2. walkout | b. talk |
| 3. collective | c. limited |
| 4. negotiate | d. pitiful |
| 5. inoperable | e. industrial action |
| 6. established | f. staff |
| 7. capped | g. join in |
| 8. workforce | h. disgraceful |
| 9. shameful | i. set up |
| 10. derisory | j. combined |

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

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. voted to stage | a. symbol |
| 2. in support | b. opted for strike action |
| 3. bankers who voted | c. their costs of living |
| 4. a third of staff could get no | d. to negotiate fair pay |
| 5. the Bank's unwillingness | e. public sector staff |
| 6. Workers at the bank are | f. a four-day strike |
| 7. millions more | g. pay increase at all |
| 8. its workforce is struggling to meet | h. hardworking staff |
| 9. the iconic | i. of a pay claim |
| 10. dedicated and | j. suffering |

GAP FILL

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

Workers at the United Kingdom's central bank, the Bank of England, have voted to (1) _____ a four-day strike in support of a pay claim. It will be the first (2) _____ by staff from the bank in over five decades. Over 95 per cent of bankers who voted (3) _____ for strike action over what they (4) _____ to be an unacceptable pay rise offer. The Bank offered its workers a collective one per cent pay rise for its staff. The (5) _____ means that a third of staff could get no pay increase at all. The union that (6) _____ the Bank's workers said: "The result of the Bank's unwillingness to (7) _____ fair pay will be that the Bank's sites, including the iconic Threadneedle Street [premises] in the City of London, will (8) _____ be inoperable."

walkout
represents
deem
effectively
opted
negotiate
stage
deal

The Bank of England was established in 1694. It is the (9) _____ oldest central bank in operation today. Workers at the bank are (10) _____ along with millions more public sector staff in the UK who have had their annual salary increase (11) _____ at one per cent. This is below the level of inflation, which currently stands at 2.9 per cent. A union spokeswoman said workers would be taking (12) _____, "because of the bank's total refusal to accept that its workforce is (13) _____ to meet their costs of living". She added: "It is nothing short of shameful that the (14) _____ symbol of financial services in the UK is choosing to ride roughshod over the (15) _____ of its dedicated and hardworking staff and impose this (16) _____ pay deal."

capped
suffering
derisory
struggling
second
concerns
action
iconic

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) It will be the first walkout by staff from the bank in _____
 - a. overly five decades
 - b. over five decades
 - c. over five decade
 - d. over five decadence
- 2) The Bank offered its workers a collective one per cent pay _____
 - a. risen for its staff
 - b. arise for its staff
 - c. rise for its staff
 - d. riser for its staff
- 3) The deal means that a third of staff could get no pay _____
 - a. increase at all
 - b. increase a tall
 - c. increase at tall
 - d. increase atoll
- 4) The result of the Bank's unwillingness to _____
 - a. negotiates flair pay
 - b. negotiate fair pay
 - c. negotiated fair pay
 - d. negotiate flair pay
- 5) Threadneedle Street premises in the City of London will effectively _____
 - a. be in operable
 - b. being operable
 - c. been operable
 - d. be inoperable
- 6) It is the second oldest central bank _____
 - a. in operation today
 - b. in operating today
 - c. in operations today
 - d. in operational today
- 7) millions more public sector staff in the UK who have had their annual _____
 - a. salary ink crease capped
 - b. salary on crease capped
 - c. salary in crease capped
 - d. salary increase capped
- 8) A union spokeswoman said workers would _____
 - a. be taking action
 - b. be take in action
 - c. be taking in action
 - d. be take inaction
- 9) accept that its workforce is struggling to meet their _____
 - a. costs off living
 - b. cost of living
 - c. costs of living
 - d. cost off living
- 10) the concerns of its dedicated and hardworking staff and impose this _____
 - a. desired pay deal
 - b. designed pay deal
 - c. derisory pay deal
 - d. decides pay deal

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Workers at the United Kingdom's central bank, the Bank of England, have (1) _____ four-day strike in support of a pay claim. It will be the first walkout by staff from (2) _____ five decades. Over 95 per cent of bankers who (3) _____ strike action over what they deem to be an unacceptable pay rise offer. The Bank offered its workers a collective one per cent (4) _____ staff. The deal means that a third of staff could get no pay increase at all. The union that represents the Bank's workers said: "The result of the Bank's unwillingness (5) _____ pay will be that the Bank's sites, including the iconic Threadneedle Street [premises] in the City of London, will effectively (6) _____."

The Bank of England was established in 1694. It is the second oldest central (7) _____ today. Workers at the bank are suffering along with millions more public sector staff in the UK who have (8) _____ salary increase capped at one per cent. This is below the (9) _____, which currently stands at 2.9 per cent. A union spokeswoman said workers would be taking action, "because of the bank's total (10) _____ that its workforce is struggling to meet their costs of living". She added: "It is nothing short of shameful that the (11) _____ financial services in the UK is choosing to ride roughshod over the concerns of its dedicated and hardworking staff and impose this (12) _____."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. How long do the Bank's workers want to go on strike for?
2. What percentage of workers who voted chose strike action?
3. How much of a pay offer did the Bank offer its staff?
4. Who or what is representing the Bank's workers?
5. Where is Threadneedle Street?
6. When was the Bank of England established?
7. Which other sector of society is suffering?
8. What did the article say the level of inflation is in the UK?
9. What are the Bank's workers struggling to meet?
10. What did a union spokeswoman call the pay deal?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) How long do the Bank's workers want to go on strike for?
 - a) 3 days
 - b) 4 days
 - c) 5 days
 - d) 6 days
- 2) What percentage of workers who voted chose strike action?
 - a) exactly 95%
 - b) under 95%
 - c) around 95%
 - d) over 95%
- 3) How much of a pay offer did the Bank offer its staff?
 - a) 1%
 - b) 2%
 - c) 3%
 - d) 4%
- 4) Who or what is representing the Bank's workers?
 - a) lawyers
 - b) the government
 - c) a union
 - d) an international bank
- 5) Where is Threadneedle Street?
 - a) Manchester
 - b) the City of London
 - c) Birmingham
 - d) Oxford
- 6) When was the Bank of England established?
 - a) 1469
 - b) 1649
 - c) 1694
 - d) 1496
- 7) Which other sector of society is suffering?
 - a) the private sector
 - b) the insurance sector
 - c) the services sector
 - d) the public sector
- 8) What did the article say the level of inflation is in the UK?
 - a) 2.9%
 - b) 2.8%
 - c) 2.7%
 - d) 2.6%
- 9) What are the Bank's workers struggling to meet?
 - a) costs of living
 - b) deadlines
 - c) friends
 - d) their boss
- 10) What did a union spokeswoman call the pay deal?
 - a) sensory
 - b) derisory
 - c) advisory
 - d) hunky-dory

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Good Pay

You think good pay is the most important requirement in a job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a nice boss, long holidays or job satisfaction.

Role B – Nice Boss

You think a nice boss is the most important requirement in a job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): good pay, long holidays or job satisfaction.

Role C – Long Holidays

You think long holidays is the most important requirement in a job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a nice boss, good pay or job satisfaction.

Role D – Job Satisfaction

You think job satisfaction is the most important requirement in a job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a nice boss, long holidays or good pay.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

central	bank
----------------	-------------

- 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">• stage• five• deem• third• result• including	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1694• along• below• total• ride• impose
--	--

BANKS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170705-bank-of-england.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.

BANKS 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 'bank'?
3. What do you know about central banks?
4. Should workers go on strike for more pay?
5. What happens to a bank if the workers go on strike?
6. What do you think of a 1% pay rise?
7. Do you think a bank can afford more than a 1% pay rise?
8. How important are banks?
9. Do you think strikes are effective for workers?
10. Do workers go on strike in your country?

Bank of England staff to go on strike – 5th July, 2017
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BANKS 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 'pay'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of the Bank of England?
15. What happens when salary rises are lower than inflation?
16. Is it shameful that a central bank sticks to a 1% pay rise?
17. What is the cost of living like in your country?
18. Do you think the Bank of England's pay offer is shameful?
19. What advice do you have for the bank's workers?
20. What questions would you like to ask the head of the Bank of England?

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/1707/170705-bank-of-england.html>

Workers at the United Kingdom's (1) _____ bank, the Bank of England, have voted to stage a four-day strike in support of a pay (2) _____. It will be the first walkout by staff from the bank in over five decades. Over 95 per cent of bankers who voted (3) _____ for strike action over what they deem to be an unacceptable pay rise offer. The Bank offered its workers a (4) _____ one per cent pay rise for its staff. The deal means that a third of staff could get no pay increase at (5) _____. The union that represents the Bank's workers said: "The result of the Bank's unwillingness to negotiate fair pay will be that the Bank's sites, including the (6) _____ Threadneedle Street [premises] in the City of London, will effectively be inoperable."

The Bank of England was established in 1694. It is the second oldest central bank (7) _____ operation today. Workers at the bank are (8) _____ along with millions more public sector staff in the UK who have had their annual salary increase (9) _____ at one per cent. This is below the level of inflation, which currently stands at 2.9 per cent. A union spokeswoman said workers would be taking action, "because of the bank's total (10) _____ to accept that its workforce is struggling to meet their costs of living". She added: "It is nothing (11) _____ of shameful that the iconic symbol of financial services in the UK is choosing to ride roughshod over the concerns of its dedicated and hardworking staff and (12) _____ this derisory pay deal."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) centralize | (b) centrality | (c) central | (d) centrally |
| 2. | (a) claim | (b) clam | (c) calming | (d) clamp |
| 3. | (a) opted | (b) option | (c) opting | (d) opt-out |
| 4. | (a) collective | (b) collectible | (c) collection | (d) collects |
| 5. | (a) entire | (b) all | (c) whole | (d) every |
| 6. | (a) iconoclast | (b) ironing | (c) ironic | (d) iconic |
| 7. | (a) at | (b) of | (c) in | (d) for |
| 8. | (a) suffered | (b) suffers | (c) sufferance | (d) suffering |
| 9. | (a) capped | (b) copped | (c) cupped | (d) clapped |
| 10. | (a) refusal | (b) defuse | (c) infuse | (d) effuse |
| 11. | (a) wide | (b) short | (c) depth | (d) long |
| 12. | (a) repose | (b) compose | (c) impose | (d) suppose |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. in over five ddecase
2. teodp for strike action
3. a tvcolcilee one per cent
4. The union that erpsnreets the Bank's workers
5. gnieotate fair pay
6. ...will viefcfetlye be inoperable

Paragraph 2

7. ebslseidtha in 1694
8. public oesrtc staff
9. It is nothing short of uelfahms
10. the occiin symbol
11. cdetiedad and hardworking staff
12. impose this soerdriy pay deal

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () day strike in support of a pay claim. It will be the first walkout by staff from the bank in over five
- () roughshod over the concerns of its dedicated and hardworking staff and impose this derisory pay deal."
- () workers said: "The result of the Bank's unwillingness to negotiate fair pay will be that the Bank's sites,
- () today. Workers at the bank are suffering along with millions more public sector staff in the UK who have
- () rise offer. The Bank offered its workers a collective one per cent pay rise for its staff. The deal means that a third
- () accept that its workforce is struggling to meet their costs of living". She added: "It is nothing
- () had their annual salary increase capped at one per cent. This is below the level of inflation, which currently stands
- () at 2.9 per cent. A union spokeswoman said workers would be taking action, "because of the bank's total refusal to
- () of staff could get no pay increase at all. The union that represents the Bank's
- () short of shameful that the iconic symbol of financial services in the UK is choosing to ride
- (**1**) The Bank of England was established in 1694. It is the second oldest central bank in operation
- () decades. Over 95 per cent of bankers who voted opted for strike action over what they deem to be an unacceptable pay
- () Workers at the United Kingdom's central bank, the Bank of England, have voted to stage a four-
- () including the iconic Threadneedle Street [premises] in the City of London, will effectively be inoperable."

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. a to of Voted support four- claim in a pay strike stage .
2. the first walkout by staff from the bank It will be .
3. opted strike bankers Over voted of for action who 95% .
4. third could pay all staff no at of get increase A .
5. unwillingness Bank's the of result The negotiate to .
6. today the central operation is oldest in It second bank .
7. more millions with along Suffering staff sector public .
8. action workers A would union be spokeswoman taking said .
9. costs Its struggling their living is meet of workforce to .
10. The staff hardworking and dedicated its of concerns .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Workers at the United Kingdom's *central / centrally* bank, the Bank of England, have voted to stage a four-day strike *on / in* support of a pay claim. It will be the first walkout *at / by* staff from the bank in over five *decades / decadence*. Over 95 per cent of bankers who voted *option / opted* for strike action over what they deem to *been / be* an unacceptable pay rise offer. The Bank offered its workers a *collective / collection* one per cent pay rise for its staff. The deal means that a *thirdly / third* of staff could get no pay increase at all. The union that represents the Bank's workers said: "The result of the Bank's unwillingness to negotiate *fare / fair* pay will be that the Bank's sites, including the iconic Threadneedle Street [premises] in the City of London, will *effective / effectively* be inoperable."

The Bank of England was *establishing / established* in 1694. It is the second oldest central bank *in / on* operation today. Workers at the bank are *suffering / suffered* along with millions more public sector *stuff / staff* in the UK who have had their annual salary increase *lapped / capped* at one per cent. This is below the level of inflation, which currently *stands / stood* at 2.9 per cent. A union spokeswoman said workers would be taking action, "because of the bank's total *refuse / refusal* to accept that its workforce is struggling to meet their costs of *alive / living*". She added: "It is nothing short of shameful that the iconic *symbol / symbolic* of financial services in the UK is choosing to ride roughshod over the concerns of its dedicated and hardworking staff and *impose / compose* this derisory pay deal."

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/1707/170705-bank-of-england.html>

W_rk_rs _t th_ _n_t_d K_ngd_m's c_ntr_l b_nk, th_ B_nk _f _ngl_nd, h_v_v_t_d t_st_g_ _f_r-d_y str_k_ _n s_pp_rt _f _p_y cl__m. _t_w_ll b_ th_ f_rst w_lk__t by st_ff fr_m th_ b_nk _n _v_r f_v_d_c_d_s. _v_r 95 p_r c_nt _f b_nk_rs wh_ v_t_d _pt_d f_r str_k_ _ct_n _v_r wh_t th_y d__m_t b_ _n _n_cc_pt bl_ p_y r_s_ _ff_r. Th_ B_nk _ff_r_d _ts w_rk_rs _c_ll_ct_v_ _n p_r c_nt p_y r_s_ _f_r _ts st_ff. Th_ d__l m__ns th_t th_r_d _f st_ff c__ld g_t n_ p_y _ncr__s_ _t __ll. Th_ _n__n th_t r_pr_s_nts th_ B_nk's w_rk_rs s__d: "Th_r_s_l_t _f th_ B_nk's _nw_ll_ngn_ss t_n_g_t__t _f_r p_y w_ll b_ th_t th_ B_nk's s_t_s, _ncl_d_ng th_ _c_n_c Thr__dn__dl Str__t [pr_m_s_s] _n th_ C_ty _f L_nd_n, w_ll _ff_ct_v_ly b_ _n_p_r_bl_."

Th_ B_nk _f _ngl_nd w_s _st_bl_sh_d _n 1694. _t_s th_ s_c_nd _ld_st c_ntr_l b_nk _n _p_r_t__n_t_d_y. W_rk_rs _t th_ b_nk _r_s_ff_r_ng _l_ng w_th m_ll__ns m_r_p_bl_c_s_ct_r st_ff _n th_ _K wh_ h_v_h_d th__r _nn__l s_l_ry _ncr__s_ c_pp_d _t _n_p_r c_nt. Th_s _s_b_l_w th_ l_v_l _f_nfl_t__n, wh_ch c_rr_ntly st_nds _t 2.9 p_r c_nt. _ _n__n sp_k_sw_m_n s__d w_rk_rs w__ld b_ t_k_ng _ct__n, "b_c__s_ _f th_ b_nk's t_t_l r_f_s_l_t _cc_pt th_t _ts w_rkf_rc__s str_ggl_ng t_m__t th__r c_sts _f_l_v_ng". Sh__dd_d: "_t_s n_th_ng sh_rt _f sh_m_f_l th_t th_ _c_n_c symb_l _f_f_n_nc__l s_rv_c_s _n th_ _K _s_ch__s_ng t_r_d_r__ghsh_d _v_r th_ c_nc_rns _f _ts d_d_c_t_d _nd h_rdw_rk_ng st_ff _nd _mp_s_ th_s d_r_s_ry p_y_d__l."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

workers at the united kingdom's central bank the bank of england have voted to stage a four-day strike in support of a pay claim it will be the first walkout by staff from the bank in over five decades over 95 per cent of bankers who voted opted for strike action over what they deem to be an unacceptable pay rise offer the bank offered its workers a collective one per cent pay rise for its staff the deal means that a third of staff could get no pay increase at all the union that represents the bank's workers said "the result of the bank's unwillingness to negotiate fair pay will be that the bank's sites including the iconic threadneedle street [premises] in the city of london will effectively be inoperable"

the bank of england was established in 1694 it is the second oldest central bank in operation today workers at the bank are suffering along with millions more public sector staff in the uk who have had their annual salary increase capped at one per cent this is below the level of inflation which currently stands at 2.9 per cent a union spokeswoman said workers would be taking action "because of the bank's total refusal to accept that its workforce is struggling to meet their costs of living" she added "it is nothing short of shameful that the iconic symbol of financial services in the uk is choosing to ride roughshod over the concerns of its dedicated and hardworking staff and impose this derisory pay deal"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Workers at the United Kingdom's central bank, the Bank of England, have voted to stage a four-day strike in support of a pay claim. It will be the first walkout by staff from the bank in over five decades. Over 95 percent of bankers who voted opted for strike action over what they deem to be an unacceptable pay rise offer. The Bank offered its workers a collective one percent pay rise for its staff. The deal means that a third of staff could get no pay increase at all. The union that represents the Bank's workers said: "The result of the Bank's unwillingness to negotiate fair pay will be that the Bank's sites, including the iconic Threadneedle Street [premises] in the City of London, will effectively be inoperable." The Bank of England was established in 1694. It is the second oldest central bank in operation today. Workers at the bank are suffering along with millions more public sector staff in the UK who have had their annual salary increase capped at one percent. This is below the level of inflation, which currently stands at 2.9 percent. A union spokeswoman said workers would be taking action, "because of the bank's total refusal to accept that its workforce is struggling to meet their costs of living". She added: "It is nothing short of shameful that the iconic symbol of financial services in the UK is choosing to ride roughshod over the concerns of its dedicated and hardworking staff and impose this derisory pay deal."

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

3. CENTRAL BANKS: Make a poster about central banks. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. PAY RISES: Write a magazine article about pay rises always being above the rate of inflation. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

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 banks. Ask him/her three questions about banks. Give him/her three of your ideas. 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 F c T d T e F f T g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. stage | a. join in |
| 2. walkout | b. industrial action |
| 3. collective | c. combined |
| 4. negotiate | d. talk |
| 5. inoperable | e. unworkable |
| 6. established | f. set up |
| 7. capped | g. limited |
| 8. workforce | h. staff |
| 9. shameful | i. disgraceful |
| 10. derisory | j. pitiful |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Four days
2. 95%
3. One per cent
4. A union
5. The City of London
6. 1694
7. The public sector
8. 2.9%
9. Costs of living
10. Derisory

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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 ;-)