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Level 6 – 19th July, 2018

New Mexico President takes 60% pay cut

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1807/180719-pay-cut.html>

Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	15
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	16
Vocabulary	4	Spelling	17
Before Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	18
Gap Fill	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	19
Match The Sentences And Listen	7	Circle The Correct Word	20
Listening Gap Fill	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	21
Comprehension Questions	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	22
Multiple Choice - Quiz	10	Put A Slash (/) Where The Spaces Are	23
Role Play	11	Free Writing	24
After Reading / Listening	12	Academic Writing	25
Student Survey	13	Homework	26
Discussion (20 Questions)	14	Answers	27

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

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1807/180719-pay-cut.html>

Mexico's president-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is leading by example in his country's austerity drive. He said he would accept less than half the salary of his predecessor when he takes office in December. This is part of an austerity drive to get Mexico's economy back on track. Mr Obrador told reporters on Sunday that: "What we want is for the budget to reach everybody." This means he will take home a salary of around \$5,700 a month. This is just 40 per cent of the salary currently earned by incumbent President Enrique Peña Nieto. In addition, the president-elect said no public official would be able to earn more than he will. His supporters greatly welcomed his new austerity measures.

Mr Obrador said he wanted to cut his salary even further to play his part in helping the economy. He stopped at a 60 per cent cut because he thought a bigger cut would reduce the quality of people joining his government. Many are leaving well-paid positions in the private sector to take up ministerial posts that have a low salary ceiling. However, he said he would stand firm on his campaign promise to rein in perks given to high-level government officials. He said there would be cutbacks on chauffeurs, bodyguards and health insurance for ministers. Other measures he will introduce are to turn the official presidential residence into a cultural center and to stop pension payments to former presidents.

Sources: <http://www.latimes.com/world/la-fg-mexico-president-salary-20180716-story.html>
<http://thehill.com/latino/397153-mexican-president-elect-pledges-to-cut-his-own-salary>
<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2018/07/15/mexican-president-elect-slashes-his-own-salary.html>

WARM-UPS

1. PAY CUTS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about pay cuts. 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?

president / example / half / salary / austerity / budget / incumbent / public official / play a part / quality / government / ceiling / perks / bodyguards / residence / pension

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

3. SALARY: Students A **strongly** believe everyone should take a pay cut to help their country; Students B **strongly** believe this is silly. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. PAY: What should these people get paid? Why? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How much?	Why?
Country's leader		
Soldier		
Top soccer player		
Builder		
Artist		
English teacher		

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

6. PERKS: Rank these with your partner. Put the best perks of the job at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- chauffeur
- free lunch
- gym membership
- shares
- company housing
- travel allowance
- discounts
- company car

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. austerity | a. Restored something to the same level or direction that it had before. |
| 2. drive | b. The holder of an office or post. |
| 3. predecessor | c. Difficult economic conditions created by government measures to reduce a budget deficit, especially by reducing public expenditure. |
| 4. back on track | d. A plan or course of action taken to achieve a particular purpose. |
| 5. incumbent | e. An organized effort to achieve a particular purpose; campaign. |
| 6. earn | f. A person who held a job or office before the current holder. |
| 7. measure | g. Get money in return for labor or services. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 8. play his part | h. The official house of a government minister or other public and official figure. |
| 9. positions | i. Help others fairly and do one's share in something. |
| 10. take up | j. Jobs or roles. |
| 11. ceiling | k. Be strong in your beliefs, positions and opinions. |
| 12. stand firm | l. An upper limit, typically one set on prices, wages, or expenditure. |
| 13. perks | m. Start something new (e.g. a job, project, etc.). |
| 14. residence | n. Money, goods, or other benefits one gets as an employee. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1807/180719-pay-cut.html>

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

- a. Mexico's new president will teach people how to drive. **T / F**
- b. Mexico's new president wants to backtrack on the economy. **T / F**
- c. Mr Obrador wants everyone to take a pay cut. **T / F**
- d. Mr Obrador said no public official would earn more than him. **T / F**
- e. Mr Obrador wanted to take a pay cut that was bigger than 60%. **T / F**
- f. Ministerial jobs in Mexico will have a high salary ceiling. **T / F**
- g. Mr Obrador will reduce the number of chauffeurs for ministers. **T / F**
- h. The presidential residence will be turned into a cultural center. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

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

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| 1. drive | a. initiate |
| 2. take home | b. actions |
| 3. incumbent | c. previous |
| 4. welcomed | d. earn |
| 5. measures | e. current |
| 6. promise | f. benefits |
| 7. perks | g. campaign |
| 8. introduce | h. home |
| 9. residence | i. pledge |
| 10. former | j. greeted |

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

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Lopez Obrador is leading | a. promise |
| 2. austerity | b. austerity measures |
| 3. less than half the salary | c. reduce the quality |
| 4. he will take home a salary of | d. payments |
| 5. His supporters greatly welcomed his new | e. of his predecessor |
| 6. play his part | f. residence |
| 7. a bigger cut would | g. by example |
| 8. stand firm on his campaign | h. in helping the economy |
| 9. presidential | i. drive |
| 10. pension | j. around \$5,700 a month |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1807/180719-pay-cut.html>

Mexico's president-(1) _____ Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is leading by example in his country's (2) _____ drive. He said he would accept less than half the salary of his predecessor when he takes (3) _____ in December. This is part of an austerity drive to get Mexico's economy (4) _____ on track. Mr Obrador told reporters on Sunday that: "What we want is for the budget to reach everybody." This means he will take home a (5) _____ of around \$5,700 a month. This is just 40 per cent of the salary currently earned by (6) _____ President Enrique Peña Nieto. In addition, the president-elect said no public (7) _____ would be able to earn more than he will. His supporters (8) _____ welcomed his new austerity measures.

austerity
official
back
greatly
elect
salary
office
incumbent

Mr Obrador said he wanted to cut his salary even (9) _____ to play his part in helping the economy. He stopped at a 60 per cent cut because he thought a bigger cut would reduce the (10) _____ of people joining his government. Many are leaving well-paid positions in the private (11) _____ to take up ministerial posts that have a low salary (12) _____. However, he said he would stand firm on his campaign promise to (13) _____ in perks given to high-level government officials. He said there would be (14) _____ on chauffeurs, bodyguards and health insurance for ministers. Other measures he will introduce are to turn the official presidential (15) _____ into a cultural center and to stop pension payments to (16) _____ presidents.

ceiling
quality
residence
sector
rein
former
further
cutbacks

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1807/180719-pay-cut.html>

- 1) Mexico's president-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is _____
 - a. lead in by example
 - b. leading by exemplar
 - c. leading by example
 - d. leading by egg sample
- 2) He said he would accept less than half the salary _____
 - a. of his processor
 - b. of his professor
 - c. of his pre-dresser
 - d. of his predecessor
- 3) This is part of an austerity drive to get Mexico's economy _____
 - a. black in track
 - b. back on track
 - c. back in tack
 - d. back on tack
- 4) just 40 per cent of the salary currently earned _____ President Enrique Peña Nieto
 - a. bye incumbent
 - b. buy incumbent
 - c. buoy incumbent
 - d. by incumbent
- 5) In addition, the president-elect said no public official would be able _____
 - a. to earned more
 - b. to earns more
 - c. to earning more
 - d. to earn more
- 6) Mr Obrador said he wanted to cut his salary even further to _____
 - a. play this part
 - b. play his part
 - c. play is part
 - d. players part
- 7) he thought a bigger cut would reduce the _____
 - a. qualify of people
 - b. quality off people
 - c. qualify off people
 - d. quality of people
- 8) take up ministerial posts that have a low _____
 - a. salary sealing
 - b. salary seal in
 - c. salary ceiling
 - d. salary seeing
- 9) However, he said he would stand firm on his campaign promise to _____
 - a. reign in perks
 - b. rein in perks
 - c. raining perks
 - d. rain in perks
- 10) a cultural center and to stop pension payments _____ presidents
 - a. two former
 - b. too former
 - c. to former
 - d. thru former

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1807/180719-pay-cut.html>

Mexico's president-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is (1) _____ in his country's austerity drive. He said he would accept less than half the salary of his predecessor when (2) _____ in December. This is part of an austerity drive to get Mexico's economy (3) _____. Mr Obrador told reporters on Sunday that: "What we want is for the budget to reach everybody." This means he will take (4) _____ of around \$5,700 a month. This is just 40 per cent of the salary currently (5) _____ President Enrique Peña Nieto. In addition, the president-elect said no public official would be (6) _____ more than he will. His supporters greatly welcomed his new austerity measures.

Mr Obrador said he wanted to cut his salary even further to (7) _____ in helping the economy. He stopped at a 60 per cent cut because he thought a bigger cut would (8) _____ of people joining his government. Many are leaving well-paid positions in the private sector to take up ministerial posts that have a (9) _____. However, he said he would stand firm on his campaign promise to (10) _____ given to high-level government officials. He said there would (11) _____ chauffeurs, bodyguards and health insurance for ministers. Other measures he will introduce are to turn the official presidential residence into a cultural center and (12) _____ payments to former presidents.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1807/180719-pay-cut.html>

1. What is Mr Obrador doing by example?
2. What does Mr Obrador want to get back on track?
3. How much will Mr Obrador's salary be?
4. Who would not be able to earn more than Mr Obrador?
5. Who welcomed Mr Obrador's austerity measures?
6. What did Mr Obrador want to play his part in helping?
7. Where might new government ministers be coming from?
8. What did Mr Obrador say he would rein in?
9. What kind of insurance will Mr Obrador cut back on for ministers?
10. Who will no longer receive pension payments in Mexico?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1807/180719-pay-cut.html>

- 1) What is Mr Obrador doing by example?
 - a) fishing
 - b) leading
 - c) mentoring
 - d) teaching
- 2) What does Mr Obrador want to get back on track?
 - a) a show
 - b) his life
 - c) a train
 - d) the economy
- 3) How much will Mr Obrador's salary be?
 - a) just over \$5,700
 - b) exactly \$5,700
 - c) around \$5,700
 - d) just under \$5,700
- 4) Who would not be able to earn more than Mr Obrador?
 - a) public officials
 - b) private workers
 - c) rock stars
 - d) soccer stars
- 5) Who welcomed Mr Obrador's austerity measures?
 - a) civil servants
 - b) his supporters
 - c) his wife
 - d) the current president
- 6) What did Mr Obrador want to play his part in helping?
 - a) the economy
 - b) the low-paid
 - c) the middle classes
 - d) the banking system
- 7) Where might new government ministers be coming from?
 - a) middle management
 - b) the south
 - c) the private sector
 - d) the USA
- 8) What did Mr Obrador say he would rein in?
 - a) perks
 - b) parks
 - c) berks
 - d) barks
- 9) What kind of insurance will Mr Obrador cut back on for ministers?
 - a) car insurance
 - b) home insurance
 - c) travel insurance
 - d) health insurance
- 10) Who will no longer receive pension payments in Mexico?
 - a) ministers
 - b) retired people
 - c) former presidents
 - d) rich people

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1807/180719-pay-cut.html>

Role A – Free Lunches

You think free lunches are the best perks of the job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what isn't as good with their perks. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these perks (and why): gym membership, a company car or shares.

Role B – Gym Membership

You think gym membership is the best perk of the job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what isn't as good with their perks. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these perks (and why): free lunches, a company car or shares.

Role C – Company Car

You think a company car is the best perk of the job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what isn't as good with their perks. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these perks (and why): gym membership, free lunches or shares.

Role D – Shares

You think shares are the best perks of the job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what isn't as good with their perks. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these perks (and why): gym membership, a company car or free lunches.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1807/180719-pay-cut.html>

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

pay	cut

- 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">• example• drive• track• month• just• earn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• part• quality• positions• promise• health• stop
---	--

PAY CUTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1807/180719-pay-cut.html>

Write five GOOD questions about pay cuts 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.

PAY CUTS DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'pay'?
3. What do you think of Mr Obrador's pay cut?
4. How much should a country's president earn?
5. Should business leaders earn more than national leaders?
6. Should we all take a pay cut to help the government?
7. What should leaders do to lead by example?
8. How can we all help in austerity drives?
9. What is the most money anyone should be allowed to earn?
10. What do you think of your country's leader?

New Mexico President takes 60% pay cut – 19th July, 2018
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PAY CUTS 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 'cut'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. When have you led by example?
15. What makes a good national leader?
16. Is it better to work in the private or public sector?
17. Do government ministers get too many perks?
18. Why do government ministers need a chauffeur?
19. Should former presidents still get pension payments?
20. What questions would you like to ask Mr Obrador?

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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1807/180719-pay-cut.html>

Mexico's president-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is (1) _____ by example in his country's austerity drive. He said he would accept less than half the salary of his (2) _____ when he takes office in December. This is part of an austerity drive to get Mexico's economy back on (3) _____. Mr Obrador told reporters on Sunday that: "What we want is for the budget to reach everybody." This means he will take home a salary of around \$5,700 a month. This is just 40 per cent of the salary (4) _____ earned by incumbent President Enrique Peña Nieto. In addition, the president-elect said no public official would be able to (5) _____ more than he will. His supporters greatly (6) _____ his new austerity measures.

Mr Obrador said he wanted to cut his salary even further to (7) _____ his part in helping the economy. He stopped at a 60 per cent cut because he thought a bigger cut would (8) _____ the quality of people joining his government. Many are leaving well-paid positions in the private sector to take up ministerial posts that have a low salary (9) _____. However, he said he would stand firm on his campaign promise to rein in (10) _____ given to high-level government officials. He said there would be cutbacks on chauffeurs, bodyguards and health insurance for ministers. Other measures he will introduce are to (11) _____ the official presidential residence into a cultural center and to stop pension payments to (12) _____ presidents.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. | (a) lead | (b) led | (c) leading | (d) leader |
| 2. | (a) predecessor | (b) precedent | (c) prediction | (d) predicates |
| 3. | (a) track | (b) tack | (c) tacky | (d) tactless |
| 4. | (a) currently | (b) currency | (c) currant | (d) concurrently |
| 5. | (a) urn | (b) earn | (c) yearn | (d) own |
| 6. | (a) waved | (b) pleased | (c) hugged | (d) welcomed |
| 7. | (a) have | (b) make | (c) play | (d) turn |
| 8. | (a) conduce | (b) induce | (c) deduce | (d) reduce |
| 9. | (a) ceiling | (b) roof | (c) floor | (d) ground |
| 10. | (a) perks | (b) parks | (c) packs | (d) pucks |
| 11. | (a) tame | (b) turn | (c) digest | (d) take |
| 12. | (a) framer | (b) firmer | (c) former | (d) farmer |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1807/180719-pay-cut.html>

Paragraph 1

1. Obrador is leaignd by example
2. in his country's rtstaeyui drive
3. half the salary of his opedcsresre
4. for the tebgud to reach everybody
5. earned by ncuenmitb President Enrique
6. His rsoertppsu greatly welcomed...

Paragraph 2

7. take up aiestlmrnii posts
8. stand firm on his gacianpm promise
9. there would be cutbacks on uacuferfsh
10. health scurnenia
11. the official presidential cisenedre
12. stop nosienp payments

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1807/180719-pay-cut.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () government. Many are leaving well-paid positions in the private sector to take up ministerial
- () posts that have a low salary ceiling. However, he said he would stand firm on his campaign promise to rein
- () track. Mr Obrador told reporters on Sunday that: "What we want is for the budget to reach
- () everybody." This means he will take home a salary of around \$5,700 a month. This is just 40 per cent of the salary currently
- () official would be able to earn more than he will. His supporters greatly welcomed his new austerity measures.
- () in perks given to high-level government officials. He said there would be cutbacks
- () Mr Obrador said he wanted to cut his salary even further to play his part in helping the economy. He stopped
- () earned by incumbent President Enrique Peña Nieto. In addition, the president-elect said no public
- () at a 60 per cent cut because he thought a bigger cut would reduce the quality of people joining his
- () drive. He said he would accept less than half the salary of his predecessor when he takes
- (**1**) Mexico's president-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is leading by example in his country's austerity
- () the official presidential residence into a cultural center and to stop pension payments to former presidents.
- () office in December. This is part of an austerity drive to get Mexico's economy back on
- () on chauffeurs, bodyguards and health insurance for ministers. Other measures he will introduce are to turn

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1807/180719-pay-cut.html>

1. drive . country's example his Leading austerity by in
2. salary predecessor . of the Less half his than
3. an of part is drive . austerity This
4. is per just of cent This 40 the salary .
5. austerity welcomed greatly measures . supporters new His his
6. even He further . salary to cut wanted his
7. people the Reduce of joining government . quality his
8. to in high-level officials . government Rein perks given
9. would said there on cutbacks He chauffeurs . be
10. pension to payments To former presidents . stop

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1807/180719-pay-cut.html>

Mexico's president-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is *led / leading* by example in his country's austerity drive. He said he would accept *less / lesser* than half the salary of his *predecessor / precursor* when he takes office in December. This is part of an austerity drive to get Mexico's economy back *in / on* track. Mr Obrador told reporters on Sunday that: "What we want is *for / from* the budget to reach everybody." This means he will take home a salary *off / of* around \$5,700 a month. This is just 40 per cent of the salary currently earned *by / for* incumbent President Enrique Peña Nieto. In *addition / additionally*, the president-elect said no public *officially / official* would be able to earn more than he will. His supporters greatly welcomed his new *austerity / posterity* measures.

Mr Obrador said he wanted to cut his salary even *farther / further* to play his part *on / in* helping the economy. He stopped at a 60 per cent cut because he thought a bigger cut would reduce the quality of people *joint / joining* his government. Many are leaving well-paid *position / positions* in the private sector to take up ministerial posts that have a *low / law* salary ceiling. However, he said he would stand *farm / firm* on his campaign promise to rein in perks given to high-level government officials. He said there would be *cutbacks / cuttings* on chauffeurs, bodyguards and health insurance for ministers. Other *measurements / measures* he will introduce are to turn the official presidential residence *into / onto* a cultural center and to stop pension payments to *former / firmer* presidents.

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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1807/180719-pay-cut.html>

M_x_c_'s p_r_s_d_n_t -l_c_t A_n_d_r_s M_n__l L_p_z
O_b_r_d_r_s l__d_n_g b_y _x_m_p_l__n h_s c__n_t_r
y's __s_t_r_t_y d_r_v__. H_s__d h_w__ld _c_c_p
t l_s_s t_h_n h_l_f t_h_s_l_r_y _f h_s p_r_d_c_s
s_r w_h_n h_t_k_s _f_f_c__n D_c_m_b_r. T_h_s _s
p_r_t _f _n __s_t_r_t_y d_r_v_ t_g_t M_x_c_'s
_c_n_m_y b_c_k _n t_r_c_k. M_r O_b_r_d_r t_l_d
r_p_r_t_r_s _n S_n_d_y t_h_t: "W_h_t w_w_n_t _s
f_r t_h_b_d_g_t t_r__c_h _v_r_y_b_d_y." T_h_s
m__n_s h_w_l_l t_k_h_m__s_l_r_y _f _r__n_d \$5
, 700 _m_n_t_h. T_h_s _s j_s_t 40 p_r_c_n_t _f
s_l_r_y c_r_r_n_t_l_y __r_n_d b_y _n_c_m_b_n_t P
r_s_d_n_t E_n_r_q__ P_ñ__ N__t_. I_n _d_d_t__n, t
h_p_r_s_d_n_t -l_c_t s__d n_p_b_l_c _f_f_c__l w__
ld b__b_l_t__r_n m_r_t_h_n h_w_l_l. H_s s_p
p_r_t_r_s g_r__t_l_y w_l_c_m_d h_s n_w __s_t_r_t_y
m__s_r_s.

M_r O_b_r_d_r s__d h_w_n_t_d t_c_t h_s s_l_r_y
_v_n f_r_t_h_r t_p_l_y h_s p_r_t _n h_l_p_n_g t_h_
_c_n_m_y. H_s s_t_p_p_d _t _60 p_r_c_n_t c_t
b_c__s_h_t_h__g_h_t _b_g_g_r_c_t w__ld r_d_c_
t_h_q__l_t_y _f p__p_l_j__n_n_g h_s g_v_r_n_m_n_t
. M_n_y _r_l__v_n_g w_l_l-p__d p_s_t__n_s _n t
h_p_r_v_t_s_c_t_r_t_t_k__p m_n_s_t_r__l p_s_t_s
t_h_t h_v__l_w_s_l_r_y c__l_n_g. H_w_v_r, h_
s__d h_w__ld s_t_n_d f_r_m _n h_s c_m_p__g_n
p_r_m_s_t_r__n _n p_r_k_s g_v_n t_h_g_h-l_v_l
g_v_r_n_m_n_t _f_f_c__l_s. H_s__d t_h_r_w__ld
b_c_t_b_c_k_s _n c_h__f_f__r_s, b_d_y_g__r_d_s _n_d
h__l_t_h _n_s_r_n_c_f_r m_n_s_t_r_s. O_t_h_r m__
s_r_s h_w_l_l _n_t_r_d_c__r_t_t_r_n t_h__f_f_c__l
p_r_s_d_n_t__l_r_s_d_n_c__n_t__c_l_t_r_l_c_n_t_r_n_d
t_s_t_p_p_n_s__n p_y_m_n_t_s t_f_r_m_r_p_r_s_d_n_t
s.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1807/180719-pay-cut.html>

mexicos president elect andres manuel lopez obrador is leading by example in his countrys austerity drive he said he would accept less than half the salary of his predecessor when he takes office in december this is part of an austerity drive to get mexicos economy back on track mr obrador told reporters on sunday that what we want is for the budget to reach everybody this means he will take home a salary of around 5700 a month this is just 40 per cent of the salary currently earned by incumbent president enrique peñ Nieto in addition the president elect said no public official would be able to earn more than he will his supporters greatly welcomed his new austerity measures

mr obrador said he wanted to cut his salary even further to play his part in helping the economy he stopped at a 60 per cent cut because he thought a bigger cut would reduce the quality of people joining his government many are leaving well paid positions in the private sector to take up ministerial posts that have a low salary ceiling however he said he would stand firm on his campaign promise to rein in perks given to high level government officials he said there would be cutbacks on chauffeurs bodyguards and health insurance for ministers other measures he will introduce are to turn the official presidential residence into a cultural center and to stop pension payments to former presidents.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1807/180719-pay-cut.html>

Mexico's president-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is leading by example in his country's austerity drive. He said he would accept less than half the salary of his predecessor when he takes office in December. This is part of an austerity drive to get Mexico's economy back on track. Mr Obrador told reporters on Sunday that: "What we want is for the budget to reach everybody." This means he will take home a salary of around \$5,700 a month. This is just 40 percent of the salary currently earned by incumbent President Enrique Peña Nieto. In addition, the president-elect said no public official would be able to earn more than he will. His supporters greatly welcomed his new austerity measures. Mr Obrador said he wanted to cut his salary even further to play his part in helping the economy. He stopped a 60 percent cut because he thought a bigger cut would reduce the quality of people joining his government. Many are leaving well-paid positions in the private sector to take up ministerial posts that have a low salary ceiling. However, he said he would stand firm on his campaign promise to rein in perks given to high-level government officials. He said there would be cuts back on chauffeurs, bodyguards and health insurance for ministers. Other measures he will introduce are to turn the official presidential residence into a cultural center and to stop pension payments to former presidents.

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

3. PAY CUTS: Make a poster about pay cuts. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. AUSTERITY: Write a magazine article about government spending being a better way out of austerity than pay cuts. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

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 pay cuts. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions on pay cuts. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c 2. e 3. f 4. a 5. b 6. g 7. d
8. i 9. j 10. m 11. l 12. k 13. n 14. h

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a F b F c F d T e T f F g T h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. drive | a. campaign |
| 2. take home | b. earn |
| 3. incumbent | c. current |
| 4. welcomed | d. greeted |
| 5. measures | e. actions |
| 6. promise | f. pledge |
| 7. perks | g. benefits |
| 8. introduce | h. initiate |
| 9. residence | i. home |
| 10. former | j. previous |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Leading
2. The economy
3. Around \$5,700
4. Public officials
5. His supporters
6. The economy
7. The private sector
8. Perks
9. Health insurance
10. Former presidents

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. Leading by example in his country's austerity drive.
2. Less than half the salary of his predecessor.
3. This is part of an austerity drive.
4. This is just 40 per cent of the salary.
5. His supporters greatly welcomed his new austerity measures.
6. He wanted to cut his salary even further.
7. Reduce the quality of people joining his government.
8. Rein in perks given to high-level government officials.
9. He said there would be cutbacks on chauffeurs.
10. To stop pension payments to former presidents.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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