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**Level 6 – 20th March, 2019**

## Cheaper rail tickets for Germany's women

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190320-equal-pay-day.html>

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

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190320-equal-pay-day.html>

Women in Germany will be able to enjoy cheaper rail travel on Monday. They will be given a 21 per cent reduction in fares as part of Germany's Equal Pay Day events. Equal Pay Day is dedicated to raising awareness of the gender pay gap. It symbolizes the number of additional days a woman must work in a year to earn what men earn. The exact day differs in each country, depending on pay disparity. It is enthusiastically celebrated in Germany, where women are paid 21 per cent less compared to men in terms of average gross hourly earnings. Berlin's public transport company is reducing the cost of its day travel ticket by 21 per cent, charging €5.50 instead of the usual €7.00.

Berlin's metro system was wholeheartedly backing its Equal Pay Day initiative. It is advertising it with an online ad that vows to actually close the gender pay gap. It says: "Gender-specific wage gap. Sounds stupid. Is stupid. We'll close it." Critics of the cheaper day pass say it won't necessarily help women as most workers in the city buy monthly travel passes. The day passes are largely purchased by tourists. Men could find themselves in trouble if they try to buy the cheaper day pass. The Metro said men found using the discounted tickets would be treated like regular fare evaders. Any man caught with the day pass will be deemed a fare dodger and receive a €60 fine.

Sources: <https://www.dw.com/en/germanys-family-minister-urges-gender-pay-gap-closure/a-47966578>  
<https://www.thelocal.de/20190318/berlin-offers-discounted-transport-tickets-to-women>  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/15/world/europe/germany-pay-gap-berlin-transit.html>

# WARM-UPS

**1. EQUAL PAY:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about equal pay. 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?

women / Germany / rail travel / awareness / disparity / celebrated / cost / ticket / metro / initiative / advertising / vows / tourists / be in trouble / pass / fare dodger

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

**3. SAME PAY:** Students A **strongly** believe men and women should receive identical pay for the same jobs; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. EQUALITY:** What is equality like for these people in your country? How can we achieve greater equality? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Your Country	Greater Equality
Gender Pay		
Management positions		
Racial equality		
Income equality		
Age equality		
Sexual orientation		

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

**6. EQUALITY:** Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things for gender equality at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- pay
- housework
- property rights
- childcare
- corporate management
- political leadership
- armed forces
- sporting idols

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 1. reduction | a. Knowledge or perception of a situation or fact.  |
| 2. event     | b. Either of the two sexes (male and female).   |
| 3. dedicated | c. The action or fact of making a specified thing smaller or less in amount, degree, or size. |
| 4. awareness | d. Money obtained in return for labor or services.  |
| 5. gender    | e. A planned public or social occasion.   |
| 6. disparity | f. Wholly for a particular service or purpose.  |
| 7. earnings  | g. A big difference.  |

## Paragraph 2

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 8. wholeheartedly | h. Regarded or considered in a specified way.                         |
| 9. initiative     | i. With complete sincerity and commitment.                            |
| 10. vows          | j. An act or strategy to resolve a difficulty or improve a situation. |
| 11. stupid        | k. Lowered in price.  |
| 12. discounted    | l. Having or showing a great lack of intelligence or common sense.    |
| 13. evaders       | m. Promises to do something.  |
| 14. deemed        | n. Someone who avoids paying the full price, tax, or doing a duty.    |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190320-equal-pay-day.html>

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

- a. Women in Germany will get cheaper rail travel for a week. **T / F**
- b. Men in Germany earn an average of 21% more than women. **T / F**
- c. Equal Pay Day isn't so popular in Germany. **T / F**
- d. Berlin's subway system has reduced a rail pass by €5.50. **T / F**
- e. Berlin's Metro said the gender pay gap was stupid. **T / F**
- f. Most workers buy a monthly travel pass. **T / F**
- g. Men are also eligible to buy the cheaper travel pass. **T / F**
- h. Men could get a €60 fine for buying the discounted travel pass. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

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

- |                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. <b>reduction</b>  | a. bother     |
| 2. <b>dedicated</b>  | b. precise    |
| 3. <b>additional</b> | c. total      |
| 4. <b>exact</b>      | d. scheme     |
| 5. <b>gross</b>      | e. devoted    |
| 6. <b>backing</b>    | f. mainly     |
| 7. <b>initiative</b> | g. considered |
| 8. <b>largely</b>    | h. cut        |
| 9. <b>trouble</b>    | i. supporting |
| 10. <b>deemed</b>    | j. extra      |

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

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Women in Germany will be able          | a. men earn                     |
| 2. dedicated to raising                   | b. Equal Pay Day initiative     |
| 3. to earn what                           | c. purchased by tourists        |
| 4. pay                                    | d. be deemed a fare dodger      |
| 5. average gross hourly                   | e. awareness                    |
| 6. wholeheartedly backing its             | f. to enjoy cheaper rail travel |
| 7. it won't necessarily                   | g. evaders                      |
| 8. The day passes are largely             | h. disparity                    |
| 9. regular fare                           | i. help women                   |
| 10. Any man caught with the day pass will | j. earnings                     |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190320-equal-pay-day.html>

Women in Germany will be (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to enjoy cheaper rail travel on Monday. They will be given a 21 per cent (2) \_\_\_\_\_ in fares as part of Germany's Equal Pay Day events. Equal Pay Day is dedicated to raising awareness of the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ pay gap. It symbolizes the number of additional days a woman must work in a year to earn what men (4) \_\_\_\_\_. The exact day differs in each country, depending on pay (5) \_\_\_\_\_. It is enthusiastically celebrated in Germany, where women are paid 21 per cent less (6) \_\_\_\_\_ to men in terms of average gross hourly earnings. Berlin's public transport company is (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the cost of its day travel ticket by 21 per cent, charging €5.50 instead of the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ €7.00.

*gender*  
*reducing*  
*earn*  
*reduction*  
*compared*  
*usual*  
*able*  
*disparity*

Berlin's metro system was wholeheartedly (9) \_\_\_\_\_ its Equal Pay Day initiative. It is advertising it with an (10) \_\_\_\_\_ ad that vows to actually close the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ pay gap. It says: "Gender-specific wage gap. Sounds stupid. Is stupid. We'll close it." Critics of the cheaper day (12) \_\_\_\_\_ say it won't necessarily help women as most workers in the city buy (13) \_\_\_\_\_ travel passes. The day passes are largely purchased by tourists. Men could find themselves in (14) \_\_\_\_\_ if they try to buy the cheaper day pass. The Metro said men found using the discounted (15) \_\_\_\_\_ would be treated like regular fare evaders. Any man caught with the day pass will be (16) \_\_\_\_\_ a fare dodger and receive a €60 fine.

*trouble*  
*backing*  
*deemed*  
*gender*  
*tickets*  
*monthly*  
*online*  
*pass*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190320-equal-pay-day.html>

- 1) Women in Germany will be able to \_\_\_\_\_ rail travel
  - a. enjoyable cheaper
  - b. enjoys cheaper
  - c. enjoyed cheaper
  - d. enjoy cheaper
- 2) a 21 per cent reduction in fares as part of Germany's Equal Pay \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Day events
  - b. Day commemorative
  - c. Day commemorate shun
  - d. Day commemorate ton
- 3) the number of additional days a woman must work in a \_\_\_\_\_...
  - a. year to earning
  - b. year to earn
  - c. year to earnings
  - d. year to earns
- 4) The exact day differs in each country, depending \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. on pay this parity
  - b. on pay this disparity
  - c. on pay this party
  - d. on pay disparity
- 5) the cost of its day travel ticket by 21 per cent, charging €5.50 instead \_\_\_\_\_ €7.00
  - a. of the usual
  - b. of the usually
  - c. of the unusual
  - d. of the use you all
- 6) Berlin's metro system was wholeheartedly backing its Equal Pay \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Day initiation
  - b. Day initial tick
  - c. Day initiative
  - d. Day inflation
- 7) It says: "Gender-specific wage gap. \_\_\_\_\_"
  - a. Sounds stupidly
  - b. Sounds stupidity
  - c. Sounds stupid
  - d. Sounds stewed pig
- 8) Men could find themselves in trouble if they try to buy the cheaper \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. daily pass
  - b. date pass
  - c. days pass
  - d. day pass
- 9) men found using the discounted tickets would be treated like regular \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. fare invaders
  - b. fare evaders
  - c. fair evaders
  - d. fair invaders
- 10) Any man caught with the day pass will be \_\_\_\_\_ dodger
  - a. beamed a fare
  - b. steamed a fare
  - c. deemed a fare
  - d. teamed a fare

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190320-equal-pay-day.html>

Women in Germany will be (1) \_\_\_\_\_ cheaper rail travel on Monday. They will be given a 21 per cent (2) \_\_\_\_\_ as part of Germany's Equal Pay Day events. Equal Pay Day is dedicated to raising (3) \_\_\_\_\_ gender pay gap. It symbolizes the number of additional days a woman must work in a year to earn what men earn. The exact day (4) \_\_\_\_\_ country, depending on pay disparity. It is enthusiastically celebrated in Germany, where women are paid 21 per cent less compared to men (5) \_\_\_\_\_ average gross hourly earnings. Berlin's public transport company is reducing the cost of its day travel ticket by 21 per cent, charging €5.50 (6) \_\_\_\_\_ usual €7.00.

Berlin's metro system (7) \_\_\_\_\_ its Equal Pay Day initiative. It is advertising it with an online ad that vows to actually close the gender pay gap. It says: "Gender-(8) \_\_\_\_\_. Sounds stupid. Is stupid. We'll close it." Critics of the cheaper day pass say it won't necessarily help women as most workers in the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ travel passes. The day passes are largely purchased by tourists. Men could find themselves (10) \_\_\_\_\_ they try to buy the cheaper day pass. The Metro said men found using (11) \_\_\_\_\_ would be treated like regular fare evaders. Any man caught with the day pass will (12) \_\_\_\_\_ fare dodger and receive a €60 fine.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190320-equal-pay-day.html>

1. When will women in Germany be able to get cheaper rail travel?
2. What special day is the cheaper rail fare a part of?
3. How is the day received and celebrated in Germany?
4. How much less do women get paid than men?
5. How much is the usual price for a day travel ticket on the Berlin Metro?
6. What does the Berlin metro system want to close?
7. What did the Berlin metro call the gender pay gap?
8. Who usually buys day passes for the metro?
9. Who could be in trouble for buying a day pass?
10. How much could someone be fined for buying a day pass?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190320-equal-pay-day.html>

- 1) When will women in Germany be able to get cheaper rail travel?
  - a) all of next month
  - b) weekends
  - c) from 2020
  - d) on Monday
- 2) What special day is the cheaper rail fare a part of?
  - a) Christmas Day
  - b) Equal Pay Day
  - c) their birthday
  - d) the 100th centenary of German Rail
- 3) How is the day received and celebrated in Germany?
  - a) well
  - b) with Beethoven's 9th symphony
  - c) with great fanfare
  - d) enthusiastically
- 4) How much less do women get paid than men?
  - a) 9%
  - b) 20%
  - c) 21%
  - d) 15%
- 5) How much is the usual price for a day travel ticket on the Berlin Metro?
  - a) €5.50
  - b) €12.00
  - c) €17.00
  - d) €7.00
- 6) What does the Berlin metro system want to close?
  - a) a non-profitable line
  - b) stations
  - c) the gender pay gap
  - d) kiosks
- 7) What did the Berlin metro call the gender pay gap?
  - a) stupid
  - b) ridiculous
  - c) unbelievable
  - d) outdated
- 8) Who usually buys day passes for the metro?
  - a) children
  - b) workers
  - c) tourists
  - d) politicians
- 9) Who could be in trouble for buying a day pass?
  - a) female workers
  - b) men
  - c) tourists
  - d) metro workers
- 10) How much could someone be fined for buying a day pass?
  - a) €60
  - b) €100
  - c) €600
  - d) €160

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190320-equal-pay-day.html>

## **Role A – Pay**

You think pay is the area in greatest need of gender equality. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their areas aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): housework, political leadership or corporate management.

## **Role B – Housework**

You think housework is the area in greatest need of gender equality. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their areas aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): pay, political leadership or corporate management.

## **Role C – Political Leadership**

You think political leadership is the area in greatest need of gender equality. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their areas aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): housework, pay or corporate management.

## **Role D – Corporate Management**

You think corporate management is the area in greatest need of gender equality. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their areas aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): housework, political leadership or pay.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190320-equal-pay-day.html>

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

<b>equal</b>	<b>pay</b>
--------------	------------

- 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"><li>• able</li><li>• reduction</li><li>• additional</li><li>• differs</li><li>• compared</li><li>• instead</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• backing</li><li>• vows</li><li>• stupid</li><li>• largely</li><li>• cheaper</li><li>• deemed</li></ul>
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# EQUAL PAY SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190320-equal-pay-day.html>

Write five GOOD questions about equal pay 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.

# EQUAL PAY 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 'equal'?
3. Should the women get cheaper rail tickets?
4. Why do men get paid more?
5. How difficult is it to achieve equal pay?
6. How happy would you be with cheaper rail fares?
7. What should we do on Equal Pay Day?
8. Should male workers insist on equal pay for female colleagues?
9. Are men or women better workers?
10. How do you think men feel about the pay disparity?

*Cheaper rail tickets for Germany's women – 20th March, 2019*  
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# EQUAL PAY 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 men earning more than women?
15. Should other companies offer discounts to women?
16. What do you think of the online ad?
17. How much will the discounted travel pass help women?
18. What do you think of men getting fined for buying the travel pass?
19. Should Equal Pay Day be every day?
20. What questions would you like to ask the leaders of Equal Pay Day?

## **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/1903/190320-equal-pay-day.html>

Women in Germany will be (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to enjoy cheaper rail travel on Monday. They will be given a 21 per cent reduction (2) \_\_\_\_\_ fares as part of Germany's Equal Pay Day events. Equal Pay Day is dedicated (3) \_\_\_\_\_ raising awareness of the gender pay gap. It symbolizes the number of (4) \_\_\_\_\_ days a woman must work in a year to earn what men earn. The exact day differs in each country, depending on pay disparity. It is enthusiastically celebrated in Germany, where women are paid 21 per cent less compared to men in (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of average gross hourly earnings. Berlin's public transport company is reducing the cost of its day travel ticket by 21 per cent, charging €5.50 (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of the usual €7.00.

Berlin's metro system was wholeheartedly backing its Equal Pay Day (7) \_\_\_\_\_. It is advertising it with an online ad that (8) \_\_\_\_\_ to actually close the gender pay gap. It says: "Gender-specific wage gap. Sounds stupid. Is stupid. We'll close it." Critics of the cheaper day pass say it won't (9) \_\_\_\_\_ help women as most workers in the city buy monthly travel passes. The day passes are largely purchased by tourists. Men could find themselves (10) \_\_\_\_\_ trouble if they try to buy the cheaper day pass. The Metro said men found using the discounted tickets would be (11) \_\_\_\_\_ like regular fare evaders. Any man caught with the day pass will be deemed a fare (12) \_\_\_\_\_ and receive a €60 fine.

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

- |     |                 |                  |                |               |
|-----|-----------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) ability     | (b) abled        | (c) able       | (d) capable   |
| 2.  | (a) in          | (b) on           | (c) at         | (d) by        |
| 3.  | (a) to          | (b) of           | (c) on         | (d) if        |
| 4.  | (a) additional  | (b) additionally | (c) addition   | (d) additions |
| 5.  | (a) trams       | (b) terms        | (c) tames      | (d) teams     |
| 6.  | (a) besides     | (b) rather       | (c) prefer     | (d) instead   |
| 7.  | (a) invective   | (b) connective   | (c) initiative | (d) elective  |
| 8.  | (a) lows        | (b) bows         | (c) wows       | (d) vows      |
| 9.  | (a) necessarily | (b) necessitate  | (c) necessary  | (d) incessant |
| 10. | (a) of          | (b) in           | (c) at         | (d) by        |
| 11. | (a) treatise    | (b) treated      | (c) threatened | (d) treats    |
| 12. | (a) codger      | (b) bodger       | (c) dodger     | (d) fudger    |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190320-equal-pay-day.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. a 21 per cent decnutrio
2. Equal Pay Day esetnv
3. dedicated to raising sreneasaw
4. The eatxc day differs
5. depending on pay tasiyipdr
6. average gross hourly earnings

## Paragraph 2

7. hheteweoldylar backing its Equal Pay Day
8. Gender-iefsicpc wage gap
9. it won't caseinylser help women
10. largely psduhrcae by tourists
11. treated like regular fare vdsreea
12. deemed a fare rogedd

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190320-equal-pay-day.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) awareness of the gender pay gap. It symbolizes the number of additional days a woman must work in a
- ( ) year to earn what men earn. The exact day differs in each country, depending on pay
- ( ) Berlin's metro system was wholeheartedly backing its Equal Pay Day initiative. It is advertising it with an
- ( ) in fares as part of Germany's Equal Pay Day events. Equal Pay Day is dedicated to raising
- ( ) the cost of its day travel ticket by 21 per cent, charging €5.50 instead of the usual €7.00.
- ( ) pass. The Metro said men found using the discounted tickets would be treated like regular fare
- ( ) disparity. It is enthusiastically celebrated in Germany, where women are paid 21 per cent less
- ( **1** ) Women in Germany will be able to enjoy cheaper rail travel on Monday. They will be given a 21 per cent reduction
- ( ) by tourists. Men could find themselves in trouble if they try to buy the cheaper day
- ( ) stupid. Is stupid. We'll close it." Critics of the cheaper day pass say it won't necessarily help
- ( ) compared to men in terms of average gross hourly earnings. Berlin's public transport company is reducing
- ( ) evaders. Any man caught with the day pass will be deemed a fare dodger and receive a €60 fine.
- ( ) online ad that vows to actually close the gender pay gap. It says: "Gender-specific wage gap. Sounds
- ( ) women as most workers in the city buy monthly travel passes. The day passes are largely purchased

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190320-equal-pay-day.html>

1. cheaper Germany will Women rail enjoy in travel .

2. of gap . Dedicated awareness pay the raising to

3. women number of days must The work . additional

4. each differs in The day country . exact

5. ticket . the day of its Reducing travel cost

6. advertising is ad . it with It online an

7. pass say the it . cheaper of day Critics

8. Most in city workers buy monthly passes . the

9. day passes are largely The purchased by tourists .

10. evaders . regular treated be like Men fare would

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190320-equal-pay-day.html>

Women in Germany will be *able* / *ability* to enjoy cheaper rail travel on Monday. They will be given *the* / *a* 21 per cent reduction in fares as *party* / *part* of Germany's Equal Pay Day events. Equal Pay Day is dedicated to raising awareness of the *gander* / *gender* pay gap. It symbolizes the number of *addition* / *additional* days a woman must work in a year to earn what men *earn* / *earnings*. The exact day differs in each country, depending on pay *disparity* / *disparaging*. It is enthusiastically celebrated in Germany, where women are paid 21 per cent *fewer* / *less* compared to men in terms of average *gross* / *gloss* hourly earnings. Berlin's public transport company is reducing the cost of its day travel ticket by 21 per cent, charging €5.50 instead *off* / *of* the usual €7.00.

Berlin's metro system was *halfheartedly* / *wholeheartedly* backing its Equal Pay Day initiative. It is advertising it with an online ad that *wows* / *vows* to actually *close* / *closet* the gender pay gap. It says: "Gender-specific wage gap. Sounds stupid. Is stupid. We'll close it." *Critics* / *Criticism* of the cheaper day pass say it won't *necessary* / *necessarily* help women as most workers in the city buy *monthly* / *month* travel passes. The day passes are *largesse* / *largely* purchased by tourists. Men could find themselves *in* / *on* trouble if they try to buy the cheaper day pass. The Metro said men found using the discounted tickets would be treated like regular fare *invaders* / *evaders*. Any man caught with the day pass will be deemed a fare *dodgy* / *dodger* and receive a €60 fine.

**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/1903/190320-equal-pay-day.html>

W\_m\_n \_n G\_r m\_n y w\_l l b\_ \_b l\_ t\_ \_n j\_y c h\_\_  
p\_r r\_\_ l\_ t\_r\_v\_l \_n M\_n d\_y . T h\_y w\_l l b\_  
g\_v\_n \_ 2 1 p\_r c\_n t r\_d\_c t\_\_ n \_n f\_r\_s \_s p\_r  
t \_f G\_r m\_n y 's E q\_\_ l P\_y D\_y c\_m m\_m\_r\_t\_\_ n  
. E q\_\_ l P\_y D\_y \_s d\_d\_c\_t\_d t\_ r\_\_ s\_n g  
\_w\_r\_n\_s\_s \_f t h\_ g\_n d\_r p\_y g\_p . I t s y m  
b\_l\_z\_s t h\_ n\_m b\_r \_f \_d d\_t\_\_ n\_l d\_y s \_ w\_m\_n  
m\_s t w\_r k \_n \_ y\_\_ r t\_ \_\_ r\_n w h\_t m\_n \_\_ r\_n .  
T h\_ \_x\_c t d\_y d\_f f\_r s \_n \_\_ c h\_ c\_\_ n t\_r y ,  
d\_p\_n d\_n g \_n p\_y d\_s p\_r\_t y . I t \_s \_n t h\_s\_\_ s  
t\_c\_l\_l y c\_l\_b\_r\_t\_d \_n G\_r m\_n y , w h\_r\_ w\_m\_n  
\_r\_ p\_\_ d 2 1 p\_r c\_n t l\_s s c\_m p\_r\_d t\_ m\_n  
\_n t\_r\_m s \_f \_v\_r\_g\_ g\_r\_s s h\_\_ r\_l y \_\_ r\_n\_n g s .  
B\_r l\_n 's p\_b\_l\_c t\_r\_n\_s\_p\_r\_t c\_m p\_n y \_s r\_d\_c\_n  
g t h\_ c\_s t \_f \_t\_s d\_y t\_r\_v\_l t\_c\_k\_t b\_y 2 1  
p\_r c\_n t , c h\_r g\_n g € 5 . 5 0 \_n s t\_\_ d \_f t h\_  
\_s\_\_ l € 7 . 0 0 .

B\_r l\_n 's m\_t\_r\_ s\_y\_s\_t\_m w\_s w h\_l\_h\_\_ r\_t\_d\_l y  
b\_c\_k\_n\_g \_t\_s E q\_\_ l P\_y D\_y \_n\_t\_\_ t\_v\_ . I t \_s  
\_d\_v\_r\_t\_s\_n\_g \_t w\_t h \_n \_n\_l\_n\_ \_d t h\_t v\_w\_s t\_  
\_c\_t\_\_ l\_l y c\_l\_s\_ t h\_ g\_n d\_r p\_y g\_p . I t s\_y s :  
" G\_n d\_r - s\_p\_c\_f\_c w\_g\_ g\_p . S\_\_ n\_d\_s s\_t\_p\_d . I  
s s\_t\_p\_d . W\_'l\_l c\_l\_s\_ \_t . " C\_r\_t\_c\_s \_f t h\_ c  
h\_\_ p\_r d\_y p\_s s s\_y \_t w\_n 't n\_c\_s\_s\_r\_l y h\_l  
p w\_m\_n \_s m\_s t w\_r k\_r s \_n t h\_ c\_t y b\_y  
m\_n t h\_l y t\_r\_v\_l p\_s s\_s . T h\_ d\_y p\_s s\_s \_r\_l\_r  
g\_l y p\_r c\_h\_s\_d b\_y t\_\_ r\_s\_t\_s . M\_n c\_\_ l\_d f\_n d  
t h\_m\_s\_l\_v\_s \_n t\_r\_\_ b\_l\_ f t h\_y t\_r y t\_ b\_y t h\_  
c h\_\_ p\_r d\_y p\_s s . T h\_ M\_t\_r\_ s\_\_ d m\_n f\_\_ n d  
\_s\_n g t h\_ d\_s c\_\_ n\_t\_d t\_c\_k\_t\_s w\_\_ l\_d b\_ t\_r\_\_  
t\_d l\_k\_ r\_g\_l\_r f\_r\_ \_v\_d\_r s . A n y m\_n c\_\_ g\_h\_t  
w\_t h t h\_ d\_y p\_s s w\_l l b\_ d\_\_ m\_d f\_r\_ d\_d\_g\_r  
\_n d r\_c\_\_ v\_ \_ € 6 0 f\_n\_ .

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190320-equal-pay-day.html>

women in germany will be able to enjoy cheaper rail travel on monday they will be given a 21 per cent reduction in fares as part of germany's equal pay day events equal pay day is dedicated to raising awareness of the gender pay gap it symbolizes the number of additional days a woman must work in a year to earn what men earn the exact day differs in each country depending on pay disparity it is enthusiastically celebrated in germany where women are paid 21 per cent less compared to men in terms of average gross hourly earnings berlin's public transport company is reducing the cost of its day travel ticket by 21 per cent charging 550 instead of the usual 700

berlin's metro system was wholeheartedly backing its equal pay day initiative it is advertising it with an online ad that vows to actually close the gender pay gap it says gender-specific wage gap sounds stupid is stupid well close it critics of the cheaper day pass say it won't necessarily help women as most workers in the city buy monthly travel passes the day passes are largely purchased by tourists men could find themselves in trouble if they try to buy the cheaper day pass the metro said men found using the discounted tickets would be treated like regular fare evaders any man caught with the day pass will be deemed a fare dodger and receive a 60 fine.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1903/190320-equal-pay-day.html>

Women in Germany will be able to enjoy cheap rail travel on Monday. They will be given a 21 per cent reduction in fares as part of Germany's Equal Pay Day events. Equal Pay Day is dedicated to raising awareness of the gender pay gap. It symbolizes the number of additional days a woman must work in a year to earn what men earn. The exact day differs in each country, depending on pay disparity. It is enthusiastically celebrated in Germany, where women are paid 21 per cent less compared to men in terms of average gross hourly earnings. Berlin's public transport company is reducing the cost of its day travel ticket by 21 per cent, charging €5.50 instead of the usual €7.00. Berlin's metro system was wholeheartedly backing its Equal Pay Day initiative. It is advertising it with an online ad that vows to actually close the gender pay gap. It says: "Gender-specific wage gap. Sounds stupid. Is stupid. We'll close it." Critics of the cheaper day pass say it won't necessarily help women as most workers in the city buy monthly travel passes. The day passes are largely purchased by tourists. Men could find themselves in trouble if they try to buy the cheaper day pass. The Metro said men found using the discounted tickets would be treated like regular fare evaders. Any man caught with the day pass will be deemed a fare dodger and receive a €60 fine.







# 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. EQUAL PAY:** Make a poster about equal pay. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. SAME PAY:** Write a magazine article about everyone getting the same pay whatever job they do. 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 equal pay. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on equal pay. 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 T    c F    d F    e T    f T    g F    h T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. reduction  | a. cut        |
| 2. dedicated  | b. devoted    |
| 3. additional | c. extra      |
| 4. exact      | d. precise    |
| 5. gross      | e. total      |
| 6. backing    | f. supporting |
| 7. initiative | g. scheme     |
| 8. largely    | h. mainly     |
| 9. trouble    | i. bother     |
| 10. deemed    | j. considered |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. On Monday (Equal Pay Day)
2. Equal Pay Day
3. Enthusiastically
4. 21%
5. €7.00
6. The gender pay gap
7. Stupid
8. Tourists
9. Men
10. €60

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. Women in Germany will enjoy cheaper rail travel.
2. Dedicated to raising awareness of the pay gap.
3. The number of additional days women must work.
4. The exact day differs in each country.
5. Reducing the cost of its day travel ticket.
6. It is advertising it with an online ad.
7. Critics of the cheaper day pass say it.
8. Most workers in the city buy monthly passes.
9. The day passes are largely purchased by tourists.
10. Men would be treated like regular fare evaders.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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