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Level 5 – 13th December, 2021

Injuries in home offices are workplace accidents

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents-5.html>

A court has ruled that sustaining an injury at home or your home office is a workplace accident. The judges decided that walking from your bed to your desk in another room can be considered a commute to work. Any injuries sustained on that short journey can be eligible for compensation. The ruling was made in a case where a man slipped while walking down stairs from his bedroom to his home office and fractured a vertebra. The court decided that the "first morning journey from bed to the home office is an insured work route". This decision could start a rush of similar cases.

The idea of what a workplace is has changed since the coronavirus pandemic. Millions of people have switched to working at home. This has implications for health and safety issues around the home workplace and accidents. One question is who is responsible for ensuring a home office satisfies safety laws. Also, to what extent an employer is liable for injuries sustained in an employee's home. An expert on employment law said new legislation would be needed to decide future claims. He told the CNN news agency that: "It seems likely that insurers will...have to revisit this ruling often."

Sources: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/12/10/work-home-injury-germany/>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/12/10/success/wfh-commuting-germany-court/index.html>
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/germany-court-workplace-accident-wfh-b1973458.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. A court has ruled | a. compensation |
| 2. sustaining | b. rush of similar cases |
| 3. be considered a commute | c. short journey |
| 4. injuries sustained on that | d. vertebra |
| 5. be eligible for | e. that |
| 6. slipped while | f. to work |
| 7. fractured a | g. walking down stairs |
| 8. This decision could start a | h. an injury |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. The idea of | a. on employment law |
| 2. Millions of people | b. and safety issues |
| 3. This has implications for health | c. for injuries |
| 4. One question is who | d. revisit this ruling |
| 5. satisfies safety | e. what a workplace is |
| 6. an employer is liable | f. is responsible |
| 7. An expert | g. have switched |
| 8. insurers will have to | h. laws |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents-5.html>

A court has ruled that (1) _____ at home or your home office is a workplace accident. The judges decided that walking from your bed to your desk (2) _____ can be considered a commute to work. Any (3) _____ that short journey can be eligible for compensation. The ruling was made in a case where a (4) _____ walking down stairs from his bedroom to his home office and (5) _____. The court decided that the "first morning journey from bed to the home office is an insured work route". This decision could start a (6) _____ cases.

The idea of what (7) _____ has changed since the coronavirus pandemic. Millions of people have (8) _____ at home. This has implications for health and safety issues (9) _____ workplace and accidents. One question is who is responsible for ensuring a home office satisfies safety laws. Also, to what (10) _____ is liable for injuries sustained in an employee's home. (11) _____ employment law said new legislation would be needed to decide future claims. He told the CNN news agency that: "It seems likely that insurers will (12) _____ this ruling often."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents-5.html>

A court has ruled that sustaining an injury at home or your home office is a workplace accident. The judges decided that walking from your bed to your desk in another room can be considered a commute to work. Any injuries sustained on that short journey can be eligible for compensation. The ruling was made in a case where a man slipped while walking downstairs from his bedroom to his home office and fractured a vertebra. The court decided that the "first morning journey from bed to the home office is an insured work route". This decision could start a rush of similar cases. The idea of what a workplace is has changed since the coronavirus pandemic. Millions of people have switched to working at home. This has implications for health and safety issues around the home workplace and accidents. One question is who is responsible for ensuring a home office satisfies safety laws. Also, to what extent an employer is liable for injuries sustained in an employee's home. An expert on employment law said new legislation would be needed to decide future claims. He told the CNN news agency that: "It seems likely that insurers will... have to revisit this ruling often."

WORKPLACE ACCIDENTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents-4.html>

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

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

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

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

