

Ditch neckties to save energy, says Spain's PM

1st August, 2022



Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has urged his fellow citizens to ditch their neckties to help save energy and the planet. Mr Sanchez made his plea at a press conference on Friday. He addressed journalists tieless, and called on

Spanish people to follow his lead amid the country's months-long heatwave. He stated: "I would like you to see that I am not wearing a tie. I have asked all ministers and public decision-makers to do likewise. That means we can all save energy." He added: "I would also like to ask the private sector that...they should not wear a tie either because, in that way, we will all be contributing to the energy savings that are so necessary for our country."

Mr Sanchez said Spain would soon adopt "urgent" energy-saving measures to tackle the climate crisis, and to reduce its reliance on Russian gas. Many other European countries are doing what they can to be less dependent on Russia for fuel in the wake of the Ukraine War. It is as yet unclear what actions Mr Sanchez will take to save energy. His government has already set restrictions on the use of air conditioners and heating appliances in the workplace. The recent heatwaves and rising energy prices have taken their toll on Spain. More than 500 people have passed away in the past two weeks because of the heat. Spain has also introduced a relief package of \$9.2 billion to help people pay energy bills.

Sources: euronews.com / dw.com / msn.com

Writing

Neckties are no longer necessary in the 21st century. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

fellow citizens / neckties / energy / the planet / heatwave / ministers / private sector / urgent / climate crisis / gas / Ukraine War / air conditioners / energy prices / relief

True / False

- 1) Spain's leader only asked fellows to not wear ties. T / F
- 2) Spain's leader wore a tie to a press conference about not wearing ties. T / F
- 3) Spain's leader wants public and private sector workers to ditch ties. T / F
- 4) Spain's leader ordered everyone to contribute to saving energy. T / F
- 5) Spain introduced urgent energy-saving measures last week. T / F
- 6) Many European companies are ditching Russian gas. T / F
- 7) Spain has introduced measures so people use air conditioners less. T / F
- 8) Spain has a \$9.2 million to help people with power bills. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. urged | a. in the middle of |
| 2. ditch | b. died |
| 3. amid | c. playing a part in |
| 4. likewise | d. reliant |
| 5. contributing | e. abandon |
| 6. adopt | f. limitations |
| 7. dependent | g. aid |
| 8. restrictions | h. encouraged |
| 9. passed away | i. approve |
| 10. relief | j. similarly |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What useful purpose do neckties serve?
- c) Does a necktie really make people hotter?
- d) How worried are you about the climate crisis?
- e) What can we use instead of air conditioners?
- f) How can you reduce your energy bills?
- g) How much higher will energy and food prices go?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Spain's leader?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Pedro Sanchez has urged his fellow | a. his lead |
| 2. press | b. of the Ukraine War |
| 3. called on Spanish people to follow | c. citizens |
| 4. the private | d. saving measures |
| 5. we will all be contributing | e. of air conditioners |
| 6. soon adopt "urgent" energy- | f. sector |
| 7. reduce its reliance | g. conference |
| 8. in the wake | h. their toll |
| 9. set restrictions on the use | i. to the energy savings |
| 10. rising energy prices have taken | j. on Russian gas |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of neckties?
- Should people be wearing neckties in the 21st century?
- How will not wearing a tie save energy?
- Has the recent hot weather affected you?
- Should all workers wear shorts and T-shirts in hot weather?
- What do you do to stay cool on hot weather?
- What do you do to save energy?
- What advice do you have for Spain's leader?

Spelling

- urged his fellow itenicsz
- made his pela at a press conference
- He edddsaser journalists tieless
- daim the country's months-long heatwave
- all mrsinties and public decision-makers
- the private ocrtes
- adopt "urgent" energy-saving eamsruse
- reduce its clirenea on Russian gas
- be less petddeenn on Russia
- His government has already set rtinsesciotr
- heating psaenlapci
- introduced a efreli package of \$9.2 billion

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. a	4. j	5. c
6. i	7. d	8. f	9. b	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Neckties

You think neckties are the things we really don't need to wear. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things are more important. Also, tell the others which is the most important of these (and why): socks, underwear or cosmetics.

Role B – Socks

You think socks are the things we really don't need to wear. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things are more important. Also, tell the others which is the most important of these (and why): neckties, underwear or cosmetics.

Role C – Underwear

You think underwear are the things we really don't need to wear. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things are more important. Also, tell the others which is the most important of these (and why): socks, neckties or cosmetics.

Role D – Cosmetics

You think cosmetics are the things we really don't need to wear. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things are more important. Also, tell the others which is the most important of these (and why): socks, underwear or neckties.

Speaking – Clothing

Rank these with your partner. Put the things we don't need to wear at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| • Neckties | • Suit jackets |
| • Jewellery | • Perfume |
| • Watches | • Underwear |
| • Socks | • Cosmetics |

Answers – True False

1 F	2 F	3 T	4 F	5 F	6 T	7 T	8 F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.