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**Level 1 – 19th September 2024**

## **Amazon staff to return to office five days a week**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240919-amazon-hybrid-work-policy-1.html>

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**Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240919-amazon-hybrid-work-policy-1.html>

In 2023, the WHO said COVID-19 was no longer a health emergency. Today, many workers are still working from home. Amazon has decided to end this. It told its staff to return to a five-day week from January. Amazon said: "We're going to return to being in the office the way we were before...Covid." It said staff could collaborate, brainstorm, and invent in the office. They could also teach and learn from one another better.

Some workers are unhappy. Staff often tell Amazon about their concerns. In February 2023, after Amazon asked people to be in the office for three days a week, the workers protested. They also complained about Amazon cutting 27,000 jobs globally. Another complaint was about Amazon's contribution to climate change. Amazon's CEO has made a "bureaucracy mailbox" for staff to complain about company rules.

Sources: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/retail/2024/09/16/amazon-return-to-office-policy-five-days/75253666007/>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czj99ln72k9o>  
<https://www.geekwire.com/2024/amazons-new-back-to-office-mandate-adds-to-debate-over-remote-work-and-employee-productivity/>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240919-amazon-hybrid-work-policy-1.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. COVID-19 was no longer a | a. before Covid     |
| 2. working from             | b. health emergency |
| 3. Amazon has decided       | c. collaborate      |
| 4. We're going              | d. to end this      |
| 5. being in                 | e. another          |
| 6. the way we were          | f. home             |
| 7. It said staff could      | g. the office       |
| 8. learn from one           | h. to return        |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 9. Some workers             | i. for staff to complain |
| 10. Staff often tell Amazon | j. are unhappy           |
| 11. be in the office for    | k. rules                 |
| 12. They also complained    | l. three days a week     |
| 13. cutting 27,000 jobs     | m. to climate change     |
| 14. Amazon's contribution   | n. about Amazon          |
| 15. a "bureaucracy mailbox" | o. about their concerns  |
| 16. company                 | p. globally              |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240919-amazon-hybrid-work-policy-1.html>

In 2023, the WHO said COVID-19 (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a health emergency. Today, many workers (2) \_\_\_\_\_ from home. Amazon has decided to end this. It (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to return to a five-day week from January. Amazon said: "We're going to return to being in the office the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ before...Covid." It said staff could collaborate, brainstorm, (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the office. They could also teach and learn from (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Some (7) \_\_\_\_\_. Staff often tell Amazon about their concerns. In February 2023, after Amazon (8) \_\_\_\_\_ be in the office for three days a week, (9) \_\_\_\_\_. They also complained about Amazon cutting 27,000 jobs globally. Another (10) \_\_\_\_\_ Amazon's contribution (11) \_\_\_\_\_. Amazon's CEO has made a "bureaucracy mailbox" for (12) \_\_\_\_\_ about company rules.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240919-amazon-hybrid-work-policy-1.html>

In 2023, the WHO said COVID-19 was no longer a health emergency. Today, many workers are still working from home. Amazon has decided to end this. It told its staff to return to a five-day week from January. Amazon said: "We're going to return to being in the office the way we were before Covid." It said staff could collaborate, brainstorm, and invent in the office. They could also teach and learn from one another better. Some workers are unhappy. Staff often tell Amazon about their concerns. In February 2023, after Amazon asked people to be in the office for three days a week, thousands of workers protested. They also complained about Amazon cutting 27,000 jobs globally. Another complaint was about Amazon's contribution to climate change. Amazon's CEO has made a "bureaucracy mailbox" for staff to complain about company rules.

# WORKING FROM HOME SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240919-amazon-hybrid-work-policy-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about working from home 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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More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](https://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

