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**Level 3 – 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.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 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

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

On the 23rd of May 2023, the WHO declared "with great hope" an end to COVID-19 as a public health emergency. Sixteen months later, many workers are still working from home. Retail giant Amazon has decided it is time to end its hybrid work policy. The company has told its employees they must return to a five-day week from the 2nd of January 2025. Amazon CEO Andy Jassy told staff in a memo that: "We've decided that we're going to return to being in the office the way we were before Covid." He said being with other staff would help workers collaborate, brainstorm, and invent. He added that teaching and learning from one another is "more seamless" in the office.

Some employees at Amazon are unhappy with the return-to-office rule. Staff have a history of telling Amazon about their concerns. In February 2023, Amazon required its employees to be in the office for three days a week. This caused many workers at the company's Seattle headquarters to protest. They walked out of their offices. The workers also complained about job cuts. Amazon cut 27,000 jobs globally in early 2023. Another complaint was about Amazon's contribution to climate change. The workers believe that asking people to commute to work will "accelerate the climate crisis". Mr Jassy has created a "bureaucracy mailbox" for staff to make complaints 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/>

# WARM-UPS

**1. WORKING FROM HOME:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about working from home. 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?

WHO / hope / COVID-19 / working from home / Amazon / hybrid work policy / staff / employees / history / in the office / protest / job cuts / complaints / climate crisis

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

**3. OFFICES:** Students A **strongly** believe offices are better places to work than homes; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. JOBS:** What do you think of these jobs? Would you be good at them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What You Think	Would You Be Good
Delivery driver		
Customer service		
Website designer		
CEO		
Marketing expert		
Accountant		

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

**6. OFFICES:** Rank these with your partner. Put the worst things about offices at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- The office
- Desks
- Bosses
- Co-workers
- Lunch hours
- Starting time
- Furniture
- Meetings

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1. declared    | a. Something that is made by combining two different things. |
| 2. retail      | b. A plan or rule for doing something.                       |
| 3. giant       | c. Said something officially.                                |
| 4. hybrid      | d. Create something new.                                     |
| 5. policy      | e. Selling things directly to people.                        |
| 6. collaborate | f. Very big or large.  |
| 7. invent      | g. Work together with other people.                          |

## Paragraph 2

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 8. employee        | h. A system of managing an organization with many rules and offices. |
| 9. concern (noun)  | i. A person who works for a company or organization.                 |
| 10. protest (verb) | j. A feeling of worry or interest about something.                   |
| 11. complained     | k. Travel to and from work or school.                                |
| 12. commute        | l. Said that something was wrong or not good.                        |
| 13. accelerate     | m. To show that you disagree with something.                         |
| 14. bureaucracy    | n. Make something go faster.   |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

1. The WHO had great hope when it ended COVID-19 as an emergency. **T / F**
2. Amazon is about to start a new hybrid work policy. **T / F**
3. All employees must be in the office five days a week from January 2026. **T / F**
4. Amazon's CEO said collaboration was better in the office. **T / F**
5. In February 2023, Amazon staff had to be in the office 3 days a week. **T / F**
6. Amazon cut over a quarter of a million jobs in 2023. **T / F**
7. Some Amazon staff believe going to the office is bad for the climate. **T / F**
8. Amazon has a mailbox for staff to complain about the company's rules. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>declared</b>     | a. dissatisfied  |
| 2. <b>emergency</b>    | b. red tape      |
| 3. <b>return</b>       | c. crisis        |
| 4. <b>collaborate</b>  | d. smooth        |
| 5. <b>seamless</b>     | e. worries       |
| 6. <b>unhappy</b>      | f. object        |
| 7. <b>concerns</b>     | g. stated        |
| 8. <b>protest</b>      | h. travel        |
| 9. <b>commute</b>      | i. work together |
| 10. <b>bureaucracy</b> | j. go back       |

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

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. an end to COVID-19 as a public             | a. the climate crisis     |
| 2. Retail giant                               | b. seamless in the office |
| 3. the way we were                            | c. before Covid           |
| 4. being with other staff would help workers  | d. complaints             |
| 5. learning from one another is more          | e. cuts                   |
| 6. be in the office for                       | f. health emergency       |
| 7. The workers also complained about job      | g. three days a week      |
| 8. asking people to commute                   | h. collaborate            |
| 9. accelerate                                 | i. to work                |
| 10. a "bureaucracy mailbox" for staff to make | j. Amazon                 |

# GAP FILL

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

On the 23rd of May 2023, the WHO (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
"with great hope" an end to COVID-19 as a public health  
emergency. Sixteen months later, many workers are  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_ working from home. Retail giant  
Amazon has decided it is time to end its hybrid work  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_. The company has told its employees  
they must (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to a five-day week from the  
2nd of January 2025. Amazon CEO Andy Jassy told staff in a  
(5) \_\_\_\_\_ that: "We've decided that we're going  
to return to being in the office the way we were before Covid." He  
said (6) \_\_\_\_\_ with other staff would help  
workers (7) \_\_\_\_\_, brainstorm, and invent. He  
added that teaching and learning from one another is "more  
seamless" in the (8) \_\_\_\_\_.

*policy*  
*being*  
*declared*  
*collaborate*  
*still*  
*office*  
*memo*  
*return*

Some (9) \_\_\_\_\_ at Amazon are unhappy with the  
return-to-office rule. Staff have a (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of  
telling Amazon about their concerns. In February 2023, Amazon  
(11) \_\_\_\_\_ its employees to be in the office for  
three days a week. This caused many workers at the company's  
Seattle headquarters to (12) \_\_\_\_\_. They walked  
out of their offices. The workers also complained about job cuts.  
Amazon cut 27,000 jobs (13) \_\_\_\_\_ in early  
2023. Another complaint was about Amazon's  
(14) \_\_\_\_\_ to climate change. The workers  
believe that asking people to commute to work will  
"(15) \_\_\_\_\_ the climate crisis". Mr Jassy has  
created a "bureaucracy (16) \_\_\_\_\_ " for staff to  
make complaints about company rules.

*contribution*  
*required*  
*employees*  
*globally*  
*mailbox*  
*history*  
*accelerate*  
*protest*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) declared "with great hope" an end to COVID-19 as a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. public healthy emergency
  - b. public heath emergency
  - c. public health emergence
  - d. public healthy merge antsy
- 2) Retail giant Amazon has decided it is time to end its \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. hybrid works policy
  - b. hybrid worked policy
  - c. hybrid woke policy
  - d. hybrid work policy
- 3) We've decided that we're going to return to being in the office the way \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. we were before
  - b. we were afore
  - c. we were beef ore
  - d. we were beef awe
- 4) He said being with other staff would help workers collaborate, \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. brains storm, and invent
  - b. brainstorm, end invent
  - c. brainstorm, and invent
  - d. brainstorm, and in vent
- 5) He added that teaching and learning from one another \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. is more seam less
  - b. is more seem less
  - c. is more seamless
  - d. is more sea mess
- 6) Some employees at Amazon are unhappy with the return-\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to-off ice rule
  - b. too-office rule
  - c. two-office rule
  - d. to-office rule
- 7) Staff have a history of telling Amazon \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. about them concerns
  - b. about their concerns
  - c. about they concerns
  - d. about there concerns
- 8) This caused many workers at the company's Seattle \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. head fifths to protest
  - b. headquarters to protest
  - c. head thirds to protest
  - d. head halves to protest
- 9) believe that asking people to commute to work will accelerate \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the primate crisis
  - b. the climate crisis
  - c. the climb ate crisis
  - d. the climate cry sis
- 10) Mr Jassy has created a "bureaucracy mailbox" for staff \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to make complains
  - b. to take complaints
  - c. to bake con plants
  - d. to fake complaints

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

On the 23rd of May 2023, the WHO declared "(1) \_\_\_\_\_" an end to COVID-19 as a public health emergency. Sixteen months later, many workers are still working from home. (2) \_\_\_\_\_ has decided it is time to end its hybrid work policy. The company has (3) \_\_\_\_\_ they must return to a five-day week from the 2nd of January 2025. Amazon CEO Andy Jassy told staff in a memo that: "We've decided that we're going to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ in the office the way we were before Covid." He said being with (5) \_\_\_\_\_ help workers collaborate, brainstorm, and invent. He added that teaching and learning from one another (6) \_\_\_\_\_ in the office.

Some employees at Amazon (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the return-to-office rule. Staff have a history of telling Amazon about their concerns. In February 2023, Amazon (8) \_\_\_\_\_ to be in the office for three days a week. This caused many workers at the company's Seattle headquarters to protest. They walked out (9) \_\_\_\_\_. The workers also complained (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Amazon cut 27,000 jobs globally in early 2023. Another complaint was about Amazon's contribution to climate change. The workers believe that asking people (11) \_\_\_\_\_ work will "accelerate the climate crisis". Mr Jassy has created a "bureaucracy mailbox" for staff to (12) \_\_\_\_\_ company rules.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. When did the WHO say COVID-19 was no longer a health emergency?
2. What policy did Amazon decide it was time to end?
3. From when must workers be in the office five days a week?
4. When was the last time Amazon staff were in the office 5 days a week?
5. What did Amazon's CEO say about learning from others in the office?
6. When did Amazon tell workers to be in the office three days a week?
7. In which city did Amazon workers protest?
8. How many jobs did Amazon cut in 2023?
9. What do workers think commuting to work will do to the climate crisis?
10. Where can Amazon staff make complaints about company rules?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) When did the WHO say COVID-19 was no longer a health emergency?
  - a) 25th of May 2023
  - b) 23rd of May 2023
  - c) 23rd of May 2022
  - d) 23rd of June 2023
- 2) What policy did Amazon decide it was time to end?
  - a) one of its website pages
  - b) night shifts
  - c) its hybrid work policy
  - d) retail giants
- 3) From when must workers be in the office five days a week?
  - a) 1st of January 2025
  - b) 2nd of January 2026
  - c) 1st of January 2026
  - d) 2nd of January 2025
- 4) When was the last time Amazon staff were in the office 5 days a week?
  - a) a decade ago
  - b) before COVID-19
  - c) September 3, 2019
  - d) last year
- 5) What did Amazon's CEO say about learning from others in the office?
  - a) It's more seamless.
  - b) It was educational.
  - c) It creates good relations.
  - d) Nothing
- 6) When did Amazon tell workers to be in the office three days a week?
  - a) February 2023
  - b) a few weeks ago
  - c) ages ago
  - d) March 30<sup>th</sup> 2021
- 7) In which city did Amazon workers protest?
  - a) Buenos Aires
  - b) Tokyo
  - c) London
  - d) Seattle
- 8) How many jobs did Amazon cut in 2023?
  - a) 29,000
  - b) 28,000
  - c) 27,000
  - d) 26,000
- 9) What do workers think commuting to work will do to the climate crisis?
  - a) They're not too sure.
  - b) help it
  - c) nothing
  - d) accelerate it
- 10) Where can Amazon staff make complaints about company rules?
  - a) at a post office in New York
  - b) a "bureaucracy mailbox"
  - c) on a Facebook page
  - d) in secret

# ROLE PLAY

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

## **Role A – The Office**

You think the office is the worst thing about offices. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least bad of these (and why): meetings, co-workers or meetings.

## **Role B – Meetings**

You think meetings is the worst thing about offices. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least bad of these (and why): the office, co-workers or meetings.

## **Role C – Co-workers**

You think co-workers is the worst thing about offices. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least bad of these (and why): meetings, the office or meetings.

## **Role D – Meetings**

You think meetings is the worst thing about offices. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least bad of these (and why): meetings, co-workers or the office.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'working' and 'home'.

<b>working</b>	<b>home</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>• declared</li><li>• still</li><li>• end</li><li>• memo</li><li>• before</li><li>• more</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• unhappy</li><li>• history</li><li>• caused</li><li>• cut</li><li>• commute</li><li>• mailbox</li></ul>
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# WORKING FROM HOME SURVEY

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

# WORKING FROM HOME 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 'hybrid'?
3. What do you think of working from home?
4. What are the good things about working in offices?
5. What do you know about Amazon?
6. What's the best number of days to work in a week?
7. Are you good at collaborating?
8. Are you good at teaching people things?
9. Is an office the best place to work?
10. What advice do you have for Amazon's workers?

*Amazon staff to return to office five days a week – 19th September 2024*  
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# WORKING FROM HOME 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 'office'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What are the bad things about working in offices?
15. What do you think about Amazon?
16. Have you ever been unhappy at work?
17. What would you protest about?
18. How can companies change to help climate change?
19. How important is Amazon in your life?
20. What questions would you like to ask Amazon's boss?

# 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/2409/240919-amazon-hybrid-work-policy.html>

On the 23rd of May 2023, the WHO declared "with (1) \_\_\_\_\_ hope" an end to COVID-19 as a public health emergency. Sixteen months (2) \_\_\_\_\_, many workers are still working from home. Retail (3) \_\_\_\_\_ Amazon has decided it is time to end its hybrid work policy. The company has told its employees they must return (4) \_\_\_\_\_ a five-day week from the 2nd of January 2025. Amazon CEO Andy Jassy told staff in a memo that: "We've decided that we're going to return to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in the office the way we were before Covid." He said being with other staff would help workers collaborate, brainstorm, and invent. He added that teaching and learning from one (6) \_\_\_\_\_ is "more seamless" in the office.

Some employees at Amazon are unhappy with the return-to-office rule. Staff have a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of telling Amazon about their concerns. In February 2023, Amazon required its employees to be in the office for three days (8) \_\_\_\_\_ week. This caused many workers at the company's Seattle headquarters to protest. They walked (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of their offices. The workers also complained about job cuts. Amazon cut 27,000 jobs globally in (10) \_\_\_\_\_ 2023. Another complaint was about Amazon's contribution to climate change. The workers believe (11) \_\_\_\_\_ asking people to commute to work will "accelerate the climate crisis". Mr Jassy has created a "bureaucracy mailbox" for staff to (12) \_\_\_\_\_ complaints about company rules.

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

- |     |             |               |             |             |
|-----|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1.  | (a) grate   | (b) greet     | (c) great   | (d) greatly |
| 2.  | (a) later   | (b) earlier   | (c) now     | (d) past    |
| 3.  | (a) giant   | (b) goblin    | (c) ghost   | (d) monster |
| 4.  | (a) to      | (b) of        | (c) in      | (d) on      |
| 5.  | (a) is      | (b) boing     | (c) been    | (d) being   |
| 6.  | (a) others  | (b) the other | (c) other   | (d) another |
| 7.  | (a) history | (b) science   | (c) reading | (d) writing |
| 8.  | (a) the     | (b) this      | (c) next    | (d) a       |
| 9.  | (a) out     | (b) up        | (c) in      | (d) on      |
| 10. | (a) fast    | (b) early     | (c) quick   | (d) prompt  |
| 11. | (a) real    | (b) that      | (c) whole   | (d) what    |
| 12. | (a) make    | (b) do        | (c) hate    | (d) be      |



# SPELLING

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

## Paragraph 1

1. the WHO arlddcee with great hope
2. a public health eecgmenry
3. end its hybrid work cliyop
4. We've decided that we're going to tnrure
5. staff would help workers etblaolcaor
6. brainstorm and tevnin

## Paragraph 2

7. Some elsyeepmo at Amazon
8. at the company's Seattle adrteaqehusr
9. Amazon's coobiuttnrn to climate change
10. omecumt to work
11. ateeelrcca the climate crisis
12. make onmaptlsic about company rules

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

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

- ( ) going to return to being in the office the way we were before...Covid." He said being with
- ( ) headquarters to protest. They walked out of their offices. The workers also complained about job
- ( ) cuts. Amazon cut 27,000 jobs globally in early 2023. Another complaint was about Amazon's contribution to climate
- ( ) to a five-day week from the 2nd of January 2025. Amazon CEO Andy Jassy told staff in a memo that: "We've decided that we're
- ( ) other staff would help workers collaborate, brainstorm, and invent. He added that teaching
- ( ) Some employees at Amazon are unhappy with the return-to-office rule. Staff have a history
- ( ) change. The workers believe that asking people to commute to work will "accelerate
- ( ) of telling Amazon about their concerns. In February 2023, Amazon required its employees to
- ( ) and learning from one another is "more seamless" in the office.
- ( ) be in the office for three days a week. This caused many workers at the company's Seattle
- ( ) decided it is time to end its hybrid work policy. The company has told its employees they must return
- ( ) emergency. Sixteen months later, many workers are still working from home. Retail giant Amazon has
- ( ) the climate crisis". Mr Jassy has created a "bureaucracy mailbox" for staff to make complaints about company rules.
- ( **1** ) On the 23rd of May 2023, the WHO declared "with great hope" an end to COVID-19 as a public health

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. a to emergency . COVID-19 end health An as
2. home . workers Many still from working are
3. policy . work to time It's hybrid its end
4. return five-day to They must a week .
5. help would collaborate . workers staff other Being with
6. with are employees unhappy return-to-office Some the rule .
7. office in Be a week . three days the
8. also about complained The cuts . job workers
9. crisis . accelerate Commuting will to the climate work
10. bureaucracy for make mailbox staff to A complaints .

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

On the 23rd of May 2023, the WHO declared "with great *hoping / hope*" an end to COVID-19 *as / was* a public health emergency. Sixteen months *later / earlier*, many workers are still working *for / from* home. Retail giant Amazon has decided it is time to *send / end* its hybrid work policy. The company has told its employees they must return *to / on* a five-day week from the 2nd of January 2025. Amazon CEO Andy Jassy told *staff / stuff* in a memo that: "We've decided that we're going to return to being in the office the *how / way* we were before Covid." He said being with other staff would help workers collaborate, *sandstorm / brainstorm*, and invent. He added that teaching and learning from *one / once* another is "more seamless" in the office.

Some employees at Amazon are *unhappily / unhappy* with the return-to-office rule. Staff have a *history / historian* of telling Amazon about their concerns. *In / On* February 2023, Amazon *required / requires* its employees to be in the office for three days *the / a* week. This caused many workers at the company's Seattle headquarters *to / for* protest. They walked out of their offices. The workers also *complaint / complained* about job cuts. Amazon cut 27,000 jobs globally in early 2023. Another complaint was about Amazon's *contribute / contribution* to climate change. The workers believe that asking people to commute to work will "accelerate the climate *critics / crisis*". Mr Jassy has created a "bureaucracy mailbox" for */ of* staff to make complaints about company rules.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

In the 23rd of May 2023, the WH declared "with great hope" and the CVD-19 is a public health emergency. Six months later, many workers are still working from home. Retail giant Amazon has decided to set up its hybrid work policy. The company has told its employees they must return to the five-day work week from the 2nd of January 2025. Amazon CEO Andy Jassy told staff in a memo that: "We've decided that we're going to return to being in the office the way we were before Covid." He said being with their staff would help workers collaborate, brainstorm, and invent. He added that teaching and learning from one another is "mission-critical" in the office.

Some employees at Amazon are unhappy with the return-to-office plan. Staff have a history of telling Amazon about their concerns. In February 2023, Amazon required its employees to be in the office for three days a week. This caused many workers to threaten the company's Seattle headquarters to protest. They walked out of their offices. The workers also complained about job cuts. Amazon cut 27,000 jobs globally in early 2023. Another complaint was about Amazon's contract-based team climate change. The workers believe that asking people to commit to work will "accelerate the climate crisis". Mr Jassy has created a "breakroom mailbox" for staff to make complaints about company rules.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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on the 23rd of may 2023 the who declared with great hope an end to covid19 as a public health emergency sixteen months later many workers are still working from home retail giant amazon has decided it is time to end its hybrid work policy the company has told its employees they must return to a fiveday week from the 2nd of january 2025 amazon ceo andy jassy told staff in a memo that weve decided that were going to return to being in the office the way we were before covid he said being with other staff would help workers collaborate brainstorm and invent he added that teaching and learning from one another is more seamless in the office

some employees at amazon are unhappy with the returntooffice rule staff have a history of telling amazon about their concerns in february 2023 amazon required its employees to be in the office for three days a week this caused many workers at the companys seattle headquarters to protest they walked out of their offices the workers also complained about job cuts amazon cut 27000 jobs globally in early 2023 another complaint was about amazons contribution to climate change the workers believe that asking people to commute to work will accelerate the climate crisis mr jassy has created a bureaucracy mailbox for staff to make complaints about company rules

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

On the 23rd of May 2023, the WHO declared "with great hope" an end to COVID-19 as a public health emergency. Sixteen months later, many workers are still working from home. Retail giant Amazon has decided it is time to end its hybrid work policy. The company has told its employees they must return to a five-day week from the 2nd of January 2025. Amazon CEO Andy Jassy told staff in a memo that: "We've decided that we're going to return to being in the office the way we were before Covid." He said being with other staff would help workers collaborate, brainstorm, and invent. He added that teaching and learning from one another is "more seamless" in the office. Some employees at Amazon are unhappy with the return-to-office rule. Staff have a history of telling Amazon about their concerns. In February 2023, Amazon required its employees to be in the office for three days a week. This caused many workers at the company's Seattle headquarters to protest. They walked out of their offices. The workers also complained about job cuts. Amazon cut 27,000 jobs globally in early 2023. Another complaint was about Amazon's contribution to climate change. The workers believe that asking people to commute to work will "accelerate the climate crisis". Mr Jassy has created a "bureaucracy mailbox" for staff to make complaints about company rules.







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

**4. WORKING FROM HOME:** Write a magazine article about working from home. 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 working from home. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. 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)

- 1 T    2 F    3 F    4 T    5 T    6 F    7 T    8 T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- 23rd of May 2023
- Its hybrid work policy
- 2nd of January 2025
- Before COVID-19
- It's more seamless
- February 2023
- Seattle
- 27,000
- Accelerate it
- A "bureaucracy mailbox"

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

- An end to COVID-19 as a health emergency.
- Many workers are still working from home.
- It's time to end its hybrid work policy.
- They must return to a five-day week.
- Being with other staff would help workers collaborate.
- Some employees are unhappy with the return-to-office rule.
- Be in the office three days a week.
- The workers also complained about job cuts.
- Commuting to work will accelerate the climate crisis.
- A bureaucracy mailbox for staff to make complaints.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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