

WARM-UPS

1. **BANKS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about banks.

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?

central bank / strike / decades / pay rise / unacceptable / union / iconic / negotiate / established / suffering / annual / salary / inflation / costs of living / financial services

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

3. **STRIKE:** Students A strongly believe strikes should be made illegal; Students B strongly believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. **BANK WORKERS:** What do you think it's like to be a bank worker? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

Good things	Bad things
Pay	
Hours	
Boss(es)	
Stress	
Colleagues	
Customers	

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

6. **WORKER:** Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things at the top.

Change partners often and share your rankings.

- good pay
- good boss
- chances for promotion
- interesting work
- great colleagues
- long holidays
- job satisfaction
- good place of work

BANK OF ENGLAND STAFF TO GO ON STRIKE



Workers at the United Kingdom's central bank, the Bank of England, have voted to stage a four-day strike in support of a pay claim. It will be the first walkout by staff from the bank in over five decades. Over 95 percent of bankers who voted opted for



strike action over what they deem to be an unacceptable pay rise offer. The Bank offered its workers a collective one per cent pay rise for its staff. The deal means that a third of staff could get no pay increase at all. The union that represents the Bank's workers said: "The

result of the Bank's unwillingness to negotiate fair pay will be that the Bank's sites, including the iconic Threadneedle Street [premises] in the City of London, will effectively be inoperable."

The Bank of England was established in 1694. It is the second oldest central bank in operation today. Workers at the bank are suffering along with millions more public sector staff in the UK who have had their annual salary increase capped at one per cent. This is below the level of inflation, which currently stands at 2.9 per cent. A union spokeswoman said workers would be taking action, "because of the bank's total refusal to accept that its workforce is struggling to meet their costs of living". She added: "It is nothing short of shameful that the iconic symbol of financial services in the UK is choosing to ride roughshod over the concerns of its dedicated and hardworking staff and impose this derisory pay deal."

BEFORE READING



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

- Bank of England staff will strike for four days. **T / F**
- It will be the first ever time for Bank of England staff to go on strike. **T / F**
- The Bank offered its staff a one per cent pay rise. **T / F**
- The workers' union said the bank will be inoperable during the strike. **T / F**
- The Bank of England was set up in 1649. **T / F**
- Millions of UK workers have had their pay rises capped. **T / F**
- The union said the Bank accepted its workers were struggling financially. **T / F**
- A union spokeswoman called the pay deal deserving. **T / F**

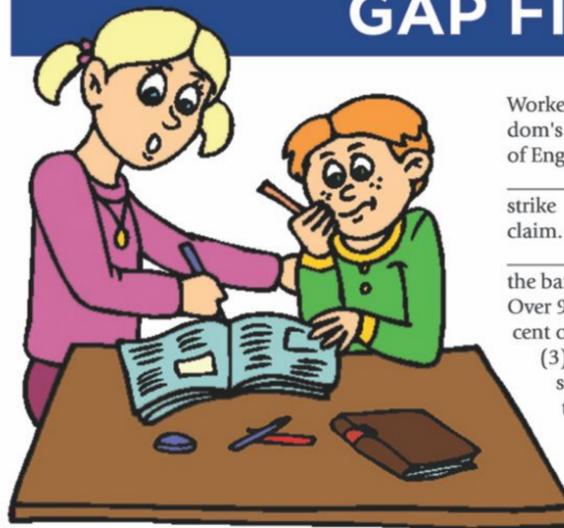
2. **SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms. The words in bold are from the news article.

1. stage	a. unworkable
2. walkout	b. talk
3. collective	c. limited
4. negotiate	d. pitiful
5. inoperable	e. industrial action
6. established	f. staff
7. capped	g. join in
8. workforce	h. disgraceful
9. shameful	i. set up
10. derisory	j. combined

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

1. voted to stage	a. symbol
2. in support	b. opted for strike action
3. bankers who voted	c. their costs of living
4. a third of staff could get no	d. to negotiate fair pay
5. the Bank's unwillingness	e. public sector staff
6. Workers at the bank are	f. a four-day strike
7. millions more	g. pay increase at all
8. its workforce is struggling to meet	h. hardworking staff
9. the iconic	i. of a pay claim
10. dedicated and	j. suffering

GAP FILL



Workers at the United Kingdom's central bank, the Bank of England, have voted to (1) _____ a four-day strike in support of a pay claim. It will be the first (2) _____ by staff from the bank in over five decades. Over 95 per cent of bankers who voted (3) _____ for strike action over what they (4) _____ to be an unacceptable pay rise offer. The Bank offered its workers a

walkout
represents
deem
effectively
opted
negotiate
stage
deal

collective one per cent pay rise for its staff. The (5) _____ means that a third of staff could get no pay increase at all. The union that (6) _____ the Bank's workers said: "The result of the bank's total refusal to accept that its workforce is (13) _____ to meet their costs of living". She added: "It is nothing short of shameful that the (14) _____ symbol of financial services in the UK is choosing to ride roughshod over the (15) _____ of its dedicated and hardworking staff and impose this (16) _____ pay deal."

capped
suffering
derisory
struggling
second
concerns
action
iconic

The Bank of England was established in 1694. It is the (9) _____ oldest central bank in operation today. Workers at the bank are (10) _____ along with millions more public sector staff in the UK who have had their annual salary increase (11) _____ at one per cent. This is below the level of inflation, which currently stands at 2.9 per cent. A union spokeswoman said workers would be taking (12) _____, "because of the bank's total refusal to accept that its workforce is (13) _____ to meet their costs of living". She added: "It is nothing short of shameful that the (14) _____ symbol of financial services in the UK is choosing to ride roughshod over the (15) _____ of its dedicated and hardworking staff and impose this (16) _____ pay deal."

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

- How long do the Bank's workers want to go on strike for?
 - 3 days
 - 4 days
 - 5 days
 - 6 days
- What percentage of workers who voted chose strike action?
 - exactly 95%
 - under 95%
 - around 95%
 - over 95%
- How much of a pay offer did the Bank offer its staff?
 - 1%
 - 2%
 - 3%
 - 4%
- Who or what is representing the Bank's workers?
 - lawyers
 - the government
 - a union
 - an international bank
- Where is Threadneedle Street?
 - Manchester
 - the City of London
 - Birmingham
 - Oxford
- When was the Bank of England established?
 - 1469
 - 1649
 - 1694
 - 1496
- Which other sector of society is suffering?
 - the private sector
 - the insurance sector
 - the services sector
 - the public sector
- What did the article say the level of inflation is in the UK?
 - 2.9%
 - 2.8%
 - 2.7%
 - 2.6%
- What are the Bank's workers struggling to meet?
 - costs of living
 - deadlines
 - friends
 - their boss
- What did a union spokeswoman call the pay deal?
 - sensory
 - derisory
 - advisory
 - hunky-dory

Find the answers in next MONDAY issue

ANSWER KEY TO THE LAST EIS PAGE ACTIVITIES (DATED AUGUST 07, 2017)

38. C, 39. A, 40. A, 41. D, 42. A, 43. B

