

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 per cent 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."

ROLE PLAY

Role A - Good Pay

You think good pay is the most important requirement in a job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a nice boss, long holidays or job satisfaction.

Role B - Nice Boss

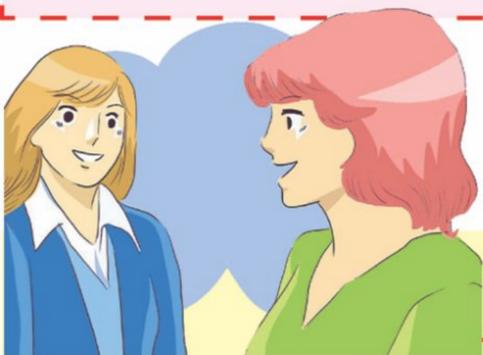
You think a nice boss is the most important requirement in a job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): good pay, long holidays or job satisfaction.

Role C - Long Holidays

You think long holidays is the most important requirement in a job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a nice boss, good pay or job satisfaction.

Role D - Job Satisfaction

You think job satisfaction is the most important requirement in a job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a nice boss, long holidays or good pay.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What springs to mind when you hear the word 'bank'?
3. What do you know about central banks?
4. Should workers go on strike for more pay?
5. What happens to a bank if the workers go on strike?
6. What do you think of a 1% pay rise?
7. Do you think a bank can afford more than a 1% pay rise?
8. How important are banks?
9. Do you think strikes are effective for workers?
10. Do workers go on strike in your country?

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 'pay'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of the Bank of England?
15. What happens when salary rises are lower than inflation?
16. Is it shameful that a central bank sticks to a 1% pay rise?
17. What is the cost of living like in your country?
18. Do you think the Bank of England's pay offer is shameful?
19. What advice do you have for the bank's workers?
20. What questions would you like to ask the head of the Bank of England?

AFTER READING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'central' and 'bank'.

| central | bank |
|---------|------|
| | |

- 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"> • stage • five • deem • third • result • including | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1694 • along • below • total • ride • impose |
|---|---|

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

Workers at the United Kingdom's (1) ___ bank, the Bank of England, have voted to stage a four-day strike in support of a pay (2) ___. It will be the first walkout by staff from the bank in over five decades. Over 95 per cent of bankers who voted (3) ___ for strike action over what they deem to be an unacceptable pay rise offer. The Bank offered its workers a (4) ___ one per cent pay rise for its staff. The deal means that a third of staff could get no pay increase at (5) ___. 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 (6) ___ 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 (7) ___ operation today. Workers at the bank are (8) ___ along with millions more public sector staff in the UK who have had their annual salary increase (9) ___ 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 (10) ___ to accept that its workforce is struggling to meet their costs of living". She added: "It is nothing (11) ___ 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 (12) ___ this derisory pay deal."

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

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. (a) centralize | (b) centrality | (c) central | (d) centrally |
| 2. (a) claim | (b) clam | (c) calming | (d) clamp |
| 3. (a) opted | (b) option | (c) opting | (d) opt-out |
| 4. (a) collective | (b) collectible | (c) collection | (d) collects |
| 5. (a) entire | (b) all | (c) whole | (d) every |
| 6. (a) iconoclast | (b) ironing | (c) ironic | (d) iconic |
| 7. (a) at | (b) of | (c) in | (d) for |
| 8. (a) suffered | (b) suffers | (c) sufferance | (d) suffering |
| 9. (a) capped | (b) copped | (c) cupped | (d) clapped |
| 10. (a) refuse | (b) defuse | (c) infuse | (d) effuse |
| 11. (a) wide | (b) short | (c) depth | (d) long |
| 12. (a) repose | (b) compose | (c) impose | (d) suppose |

BANKS SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about banks 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.



SPELLING

Paragraph 1

1. in over five ddecase
2. teodp for strike action
3. a tvcolcilee one per cent
4. The union that erpsnreets the Bank's workers
5. gnieotate fair pay
6. ...will viefcfelye be inoperable

Paragraph 2

7. ebslseidtha in 1694
8. public oesrtc staff
9. It is nothing short of uelfahms
10. the occiin symbol
11. cdetiedad and hardworking staff
12. impose this soerdriy pay deal

Find the answers in next MONDAY issue

ANSWER KEY TO THE LAST EIS PAGE ACTIVITIES (DATED AUGUST 14, 2017)

- TRUE / FALSE (p.4)
a. T, b. F, c. T, d. T, e. F, f. T, g. F, h. F
- SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)
- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. stage | a. join in |
| 2. walkout | b. industrial action |
| 3. collective | c. combined |
| 4. negotiate | d. talk |
| 5. inoperable | e. unworkable |
| 6. established | f. set up |
| 7. capped | g. limited |
| 8. workforce | h. staff |
| 9. shameful | i. disgraceful |
| 10. derisory | j. pitiful |

- COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)
1. Four days
 2. 95%
 3. One per cent
 4. A union
 5. The City of London
 6. 1694
 7. The public sector
 8. 2.9%
 9. Costs of living
 10. Derisory
- MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)
1. b
 2. d
 3. a
 4. c
 5. b
 6. c
 7. d
 8. a
 9. a
 10. b
- ALL OTHER EXERCISES
- Please check for yourself by looking at the Article . (It's good for your English ;-)