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Level 2

U.S. fast-food workers stop working

1st September, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage-2.html>

Fast-food workers in the USA did not go to work on Thursday. They went on strike for more money. The workers get paid the minimum wage of \$7.25. This has not changed since 2009. The workers cannot live on that. The price of everything has gone up but their wages have stayed the same for five years. The workers want \$15 an hour. This is double their current rate. Julio Wilson works at a pizza restaurant. He told the BBC he earns \$9 an hour. It isn't enough for himself and his five-year-old daughter. He said: "I know I'm risking my job, but it's my right to fight for what I deserve."

McDonald's and Burger King spoke about the strike. Both said higher wages would mean more expensive burgers. They said they did not make decisions about workers' pay in most of their restaurants. The restaurants are independent franchises, so the manager decides about wages. McDonald's profits were over \$5.5 billion in 2011. The National Restaurant Association say wages are low because the staff are young and have little work experience. It says only five per cent of workers get the minimum wage and most of those are part-timers. It adds that half are teenagers.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-23886031>
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-fast-food-strike-20130829,0,5180708.story?track=rss>
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2013/08/28/low-wage-workers/2711379/>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. They went on strike | a. rate |
| 2. The price of everything | b. right |
| 3. their wages have stayed the | c. has gone up |
| 4. This is double their current | d. enough |
| 5. he earns | e. I deserve |
| 6. It isn't | f. for more money |
| 7. it's my | g. \$9 an hour |
| 8. fight for what | h. same for five years |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. higher wages would mean | a. about workers' pay |
| 2. make decisions | b. wage |
| 3. The restaurants are independent | c. those are part-timers |
| 4. McDonald's profits were | d. franchises |
| 5. wages are | e. experience |
| 6. have little work | f. more expensive burgers |
| 7. five per cent of workers get the minimum | g. low |
| 8. most of | h. over \$5.5 billion |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage-2.html>

Fast-food workers in the USA did not go to work on Thursday. They went (1) _____ money. The workers get paid the minimum wage of \$7.25. This (2) _____ since 2009. The workers cannot live on that. The price of everything has gone (3) _____ have stayed the same for five years. The workers want \$15 an hour. (4) _____ current rate. Julio Wilson works at a pizza restaurant. He told the BBC he (5) _____. It isn't enough for himself and his five-year-old daughter. He said: "I know I'm risking my job, but it's my (6) _____ what I deserve."

McDonald's and Burger King spoke about the strike. Both said higher (7) _____ more expensive burgers. They said they did not make decisions about (8) _____ most of their restaurants. The restaurants are independent franchises, so (9) _____ about wages. McDonald's profits were over \$5.5 billion in 2011. The National Restaurant Association (10) _____ low because the staff are young and have little work experience. It says only five per cent of workers (11) _____ and most of those are part-timers. It adds that (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage-2.html>

Fast-foodworkersintheUSAdidnotgotoworkonThursday.They wentonstrikeformoremoney.Theworkersgetpaidtheminimumwageof\$7.25.Thishasnotchangedsince2009.Theworkerscannotliveon that.Thepriceofeverythinghasgoneupbuttheirwageshavestayedthesameforfiveyears.Theworkerswant\$15anhour.Thisisdoubletheir currentrate.JulioWilsonworksatapizzarestaurant.HetoldtheBBChe earns\$9anhour.Itisn'tenoughforhimselfandhisfive-year-olddaughter.Hesaid:"IknowI'mriskingmyjob,butit'smyrighttofightforwhatIdeserve."McDonald'sandBurgerKingspokeaboutthestrike.Bothsaidhigherwageswouldmeanmoreexpensiveburgers.They saidtheydidnotmakedecisionsaboutworkers'payinmostoftheirrestaurants.Therestaurantsareindependentfranchises,sothemanagerdecidesaboutwages.McDonald'sprofitswereover\$5.5billionin2011.TheNationalRestaurantAssociationsaywagesarelowbecausethestaffareyoungandhavelittleworkexperience.Itsayonlyfivepercentofworkersgettheminimumwageandmostofthosearepart-timers. Itaddsthathalfareteenagers.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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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)

g)

h)

WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage-2.html>

Write about **wages / salary** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.
