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Level 2 – 19th September 2024

Amazon staff to return to office five days a week

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240919-amazon-hybrid-work-policy-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240919-amazon-hybrid-work-policy-2.html>

In 2023, the WHO declared an end to COVID-19 as a public health emergency. Sixteen months later, many workers are still working from home. Amazon has decided it is time to end this policy. The company told its employees they must return to a five-day week from January 2025. Amazon's CEO told staff 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 people collaborate, brainstorm, and invent. He said teaching and learning from one another is "more seamless" in the office.

Some employees are unhappy with the return-to-office rule. Staff have a history of telling Amazon about their concerns. In February 2023, Amazon asked its employees to be in the office for three days a week. Workers at the company's headquarters protested. They also complained about job cuts after Amazon cut 27,000 jobs globally. Another complaint was about Amazon's contribution to climate change. Workers think commuting to work will "accelerate the climate crisis". The CEO created 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-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. the WHO declared an | a. they must return |
| 2. a public health | b. to end this policy |
| 3. many workers are still working | c. people collaborate |
| 4. it is time | d. emergency |
| 5. The company told its employees | e. before |
| 6. the way we were | f. from home |
| 7. other staff would help | g. one another |
| 8. learning from | h. end to COVID-19 |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Some employees | a. cuts |
| 2. Staff have a | b. days a week |
| 3. telling Amazon about their | c. to work |
| 4. be in the office for three | d. history |
| 5. Workers at the company's | e. about company rules |
| 6. They also complained about job | f. are unhappy |
| 7. commuting | g. headquarters |
| 8. complain | h. concerns |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240919-amazon-hybrid-work-policy-2.html>

In 2023, the WHO (1) _____ to COVID-19 as a public health emergency. Sixteen months later, many workers are (2) _____ home. Amazon has decided it is time to end this policy. The company told its employees (3) _____ to a five-day week from January 2025. Amazon's CEO told staff that: "We've decided that we're going to (4) _____ in the office the way we were before...Covid." He said being with other staff would (5) _____, brainstorm, and invent. He said teaching and learning from one another (6) _____ in the office.

Some (7) _____ with the return-to-office rule. Staff have a history of telling Amazon (8) _____. In February 2023, Amazon asked its employees to be in the office for three (9) _____. Workers at the company's headquarters protested. They also complained (10) _____ after Amazon cut 27,000 jobs globally. Another complaint was about Amazon's contribution to climate change. Workers think commuting (11) _____ "accelerate the climate crisis". The CEO created a "bureaucracy mailbox" (12) _____ complain about company rules.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240919-amazon-hybrid-work-policy-2.html>

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WORKING FROM HOME SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240919-amazon-hybrid-work-policy-2.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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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

