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Level 1

U.S. fast-food workers stop working

1st September, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage-1.html>

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage-1.html>

American fast-food workers went on strike on Thursday. They want more money. They get paid the minimum wage of \$7.25. This is the same as 2009. They cannot live on that. Prices have gone up but their wages have not. The workers want \$15 an hour - double their current rate. A pizza restaurant worker told the BBC he got \$9 an hour. It isn't enough for himself and his 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 said their restaurant managers decide about wages. Most of their restaurants are independent. They said higher wages would mean more expensive burgers. McDonald's profits were over \$5.5 billion in 2011. A restaurant association said wages are low because the staff are young and have little work experience. Five per cent of fast-food workers get the minimum wage. Most of those are part-timers and 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/>

VOCABULARY MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. fast-food workers went | a. enough |
| 2. They get paid the minimum | b. up |
| 3. This is the same | c. on strike |
| 4. They cannot live | d. rate |
| 5. Prices have gone | e. wage |
| 6. double their current | f. fight |
| 7. It isn't | g. as 2009 |
| 8. it's my right to | h. on that |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. managers decide | a. more expensive burgers |
| 2. Most of their restaurants | b. association |
| 3. higher wages would mean | c. are independent |
| 4. McDonald's profits were | d. the minimum wage |
| 5. a restaurant | e. about wages |
| 6. have little work | f. timers |
| 7. Five per cent of fast-food workers get | g. over \$5.5 billion |
| 8. Most of those are part- | h. experience |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage-1.html>

American fast-food workers (1) _____
Thursday. They want more money. (2) _____
minimum wage of \$7.25. This is the same as 2009. They cannot
live on that. Prices (3) _____ but their wages
have not. The workers want \$15 an hour - (4) _____
rate. A pizza restaurant worker told the BBC he (5)
_____. It isn't enough for himself and his daughter.
He said: "I know (6) _____ job, but it's my
right to fight for what I deserve."

McDonald's and Burger King said their restaurant managers
(7) _____. Most of their restaurants are
independent. They (8) _____ would mean more
expensive burgers. McDonald's (9) _____ \$5.5
billion in 2011. A restaurant association said wages are low
because the staff are young (10) _____
experience. (11) _____-food workers get the
minimum wage. Most of (12) _____ and half
are teenagers.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130901-minimum-wage-1.html>

American fast-food workers went on strike on Thursday. They want more money. They get paid the minimum wage of \$7.25. This is the same as in 2009. They cannot live on that. Prices have gone up but their wages have not. The workers want \$15 an hour - double the current rate. A pizza restaurant worker told the BBC he got \$9 an hour. It isn't enough for himself and his 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 said their restaurant managers decide about wages. Most of their restaurants are independent. They said higher wages would mean more expensive burgers. McDonald's profits were over \$5.5 billion in 2011. A restaurant association said wages are low because the staff are young and have little work experience. Five percent of fast-food workers get the minimum wage. Most of those are part-timers and half are teenagers.

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-1.html>

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