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**Level 0 – 9th January, 2020**

## **Finland gives parents 7-month parental leave**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200209-maternity-leave-0.html>

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**Please try Levels 1, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200209-maternity-leave-0.html>

Parents in Finland will get seven months to spend with their babies. This is almost double the amount of the current leave. Each parent will get 164 days and give up to 69 of their days to their partner. Single parents will get 328 days. Current parental leave gives four months to mothers and two months to fathers.

Finland said the rules will help families. The government explained it wants to put the child "at the centre of family benefits and promote wellbeing". It wants to stop falling birth rates. Last year saw the fewest babies born in the country since 1868. Sweden gives each parent 240 days. The USA has no national paid parental leave.

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/02/05/world/finland-parental-leave-policy-trnd/index.html>  
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/elanagross/2020/02/06/finlands-female-led-government-gives-men-and-women-nearly-seven-months-of-paid-parental-leave>  
<https://www.npr.org/2020/02/05/803051237/finlands-women-led-government-has-equalized-family-leave-7-months-for-each-parent>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200209-maternity-leave-0.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. get seven months to spend   | a. leave             |
| 2. This is almost double       | b. to fathers        |
| 3. the current                 | c. to their partner  |
| 4. Each parent will get        | d. with their babies |
| 5. give up to 69 of their days | e. parents           |
| 6. Single                      | f. months to mothers |
| 7. parental leave gives four   | g. the amount        |
| 8. two months                  | h. 164 days          |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Finland said the rules will | a. of family benefits  |
| 2. The government              | b. paid parental leave |
| 3. at the centre               | c. birth rates         |
| 4. promote                     | d. parent 240 days     |
| 5. It wants to stop falling    | e. explained           |
| 6. the fewest babies           | f. wellbeing           |
| 7. Sweden gives each           | g. help families       |
| 8. The USA has no national     | h. born in the country |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200209-maternity-leave-0.html>

Parents in Finland (1) \_\_\_\_\_ months to spend with their babies. This (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the amount of (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Each parent will get 164 days and give up to 69 (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to their partner. Single (5) \_\_\_\_\_ 328 days. Current parental leave gives four months to mothers and (6) \_\_\_\_\_ fathers.

Finland (7) \_\_\_\_\_ will help families. The government explained it wants to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ "at the centre of family (9) \_\_\_\_\_ wellbeing". It wants to stop (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Last year saw the fewest babies born in (11) \_\_\_\_\_ 1868. Sweden gives each parent 240 days. The USA (12) \_\_\_\_\_ paid parental leave.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200209-maternity-leave-0.html>

Parents in Finland will get seven months to spend with their babies. This is almost double the amount of the current leave. Each parent will get 164 days and give up to 69 of their days to their partner. Single parents will get 328 days. Current parental leave gives four months to mothers and two months to fathers. Finland said the rules will help families. The government explained it wants to put the child "at the centre of family benefits and promote wellbeing". It wants to stop falling birth rates. Last year saw the fewest babies born in the country since 1868. Sweden gives each parent 240 days. The USA has no national paid parental leave.

# PARENTAL LEAVE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200209-maternity-leave-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about parental leave 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) \_\_\_\_\_

