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Level 6 – 13th December, 2021

Injuries in home offices are workplace accidents

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents.html>

A German court has ruled that sustaining an injury while walking from your bedroom to your home office constitutes a workplace accident. The judges decided that walking a few metres from your bed to your desk in another room in your house can be considered a commute to work. As such, any injuries sustained on that short journey can be eligible for compensation payouts. The landmark ruling was made in a case where a man slipped while descending a staircase from his bedroom to his home office and fractured a vertebra. The court decided that the "first morning journey from bed to the home office is an insured work route". This decision could start a rush to get similar cases heard in courts.

The notion of what constitutes a workplace has changed since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. Millions of people have switched from working in offices to working at home. This has implications for health and safety issues as well as the legalities around workplace accidents. One big question concerns who is responsible for ensuring a home office satisfies safety requirements, and to what extent an employer is liable for injuries sustained in an employee's home. An expert on German employment law said new legislation would be needed to decide future claims. He told the CNN news agency that: "It seems likely that insurers will...have to revisit this ruling often."

Sources: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/12/10/work-home-injury-germany/>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/12/10/success/wfh-commuting-germany-court/index.html>
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/germany-court-workplace-accident-wfh-b1973458.html>

WARM-UPS

1. WORKPLACE ACCIDENTS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about workplace accidents. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

court / injury / bedroom / workplace / accident / commute / compensation / decision / working at home / health / safety / employer / expert / law / employment

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. WORKING FROM HOME: Students A **strongly** believe working from home is better than going to work; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. WORKPLACES: What are the pros and cons of working at these places? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Pros	Cons
Home		
Office		
Library		
Cafe		
Beach		
Garden		

5. INJURY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "injury". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. COMMUTING: Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways to commute to work at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Walk
- Bicycle
- Train
- E-scooter
- Bus
- Subway
- Boat
- Car

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. sustaining | a. Each of the series of small bones forming the backbone. |
| 2. constitute | b. Suffering something unpleasant, especially an injury. |
| 3. commute | c. Something (like money) given to someone in recognition of loss, suffering, or injury. |
| 4. eligible | d. Be or be equivalent to something. |
| 5. compensation | e. Satisfying the appropriate conditions to do something. |
| 6. descending | f. Travel some distance between one's home and place of work on a regular basis. |
| 7. vertebra | g. Moving downwards. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 8. notion | h. An idea of or belief about something. |
| 9. implication | i. An authoritative decision or pronouncement, especially one made by a judge. |
| 10. legality | j. The conclusion that can be drawn from something although it is not stated. |
| 11. ensuring | k. Continuing for an extended period or without interruption. |
| 12. liable | l. The quality or state of following the law. |
| 13. sustained | m. Making certain that (something) will occur or be the case. |
| 14. ruling | n. Responsible by law; legally answerable. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. A German court decided workplace accidents could happen at home. **T / F**
2. Judges said a walk of a few metres constitutes a commute. **T / F**
3. The decision was about a man who fell downstairs. **T / F**
4. This decision will not lead to similar cases being heard. **T / F**
5. The article says billions of people are now working at home. **T / F**
6. The article says the worker is responsible for workplace safety. **T / F**
7. A legal expert said more legislation would be needed. **T / F**
8. The legal expert suggested insurers might be busy looking at legislation. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. ruled | a. consequences |
| 2. constitutes | b. going down |
| 3. commute | c. probable |
| 4. descending | d. represents |
| 5. rush | e. guaranteeing |
| 6. notion | f. hurry |
| 7. implications | g. decided |
| 8. ensuring | h. specialist |
| 9. expert | i. come and go |
| 10. likely | j. idea |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. sustaining an injury while | a. for health and safety |
| 2. any injuries | b. cases heard in courts |
| 3. The landmark ruling | c. employment law |
| 4. fractured a | d. liable for injuries |
| 5. a rush to get similar | e. was made |
| 6. The notion of what constitutes | f. sustained |
| 7. implications | g. walking from your bedroom |
| 8. to what extent an employer is | h. this ruling often |
| 9. An expert on German | i. vertebra |
| 10. insurers will have to revisit | j. a workplace |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents.html>

A German court has ruled that (1) _____ an injury while walking from your bedroom to your home office (2) _____ a workplace accident. The judges decided that walking a few metres from your bed to your desk in another room in your house can be (3) _____ a commute to work. As such, any injuries sustained on that short journey can be (4) _____ for compensation payouts. The landmark ruling was made in a case where a man slipped while (5) _____ a staircase from his bedroom to his home office and (6) _____ a vertebra. The court decided that the "first morning journey from bed to the home office is an insured work (7) _____". This decision could start a rush to get (8) _____ cases heard in courts.

considered
sustaining
similar
descending
route
constitutes
eligible
fractured

The (9) _____ of what constitutes a workplace has changed since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. Millions of people have (10) _____ from working in offices to working at home. This has implications for health and safety issues as well as the (11) _____ around workplace accidents. One big question concerns who is responsible for (12) _____ a home office satisfies safety requirements, and to what extent an employer is (13) _____ for injuries sustained in an employee's home. An (14) _____ on German employment law said new legislation would be needed to decide future (15) _____. He told the CNN news agency that: "It seems likely that insurers will...have to revisit this (16) _____ often."

expert
switched
ensuring
notion
claims
ruling
liable
legalities

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents.html>

- 1) from your bed to your desk in another room in your house can be _____
 - a. considered a compute
 - b. considered a commute
 - c. considered a con mute
 - d. considered a com mute
- 2) As such, any injuries sustained on that short journey _____
 - a. can beer legible
 - b. can belly illegible
 - c. can be a gerbil
 - d. can be eligible
- 3) descending a staircase from his bedroom to his home office and _____
 - a. fracking a vertebra
 - b. fractured a vertebra
 - c. fluctuate a vertebra
 - d. inflected a vertebra
- 4) the first morning journey from bed to the home office is an _____
 - a. reissued work route
 - b. assured work route
 - c. ensured work route
 - d. insured work route
- 5) This decision could start a rush to get similar cases _____
 - a. herd in courts
 - b. herding courts
 - c. heading courts
 - d. heard in courts
- 6) since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. Millions of _____
 - a. people have switched
 - b. people have swished
 - c. people have stitched
 - d. people have snitched
- 7) This has implications for health and safety issues as well _____
 - a. as the league all it is
 - b. as the legal it is
 - c. as the legalities
 - d. as the legalise
- 8) satisfies safety requirements, and to what extent an employer is _____
 - a. libel for injuries
 - b. lie a ball for injuries
 - c. lie able for injuries
 - d. liable for injuries
- 9) employment law said new legislation would be needed to _____
 - a. decide future claims
 - b. decide future clams
 - c. decide future calms
 - d. decide future claim
- 10) It seems likely that insurers will have to revisit _____
 - a. this rule in often
 - b. this ruling often
 - c. this rule in off ten
 - d. this rule in of ten

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents.html>

A German court has ruled that (1) _____ while walking from your bedroom to your home office constitutes a workplace accident. The (2) _____ walking a few metres from your bed to your desk in another room in your house can be considered a commute to work. As such, any injuries sustained on that short journey can (3) _____ compensation payouts. The landmark ruling was made in a case where a man (4) _____ a staircase from his bedroom to his home office and (5) _____. The court decided that the "first morning journey from bed to the home office is an insured work route". This decision could start (6) _____ get similar cases heard in courts.

The notion (7) _____ a workplace has changed since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. Millions of people have switched from working in offices to working at home. This (8) _____ health and safety issues as well as the legalities around workplace accidents. One big question concerns who is responsible (9) _____ home office satisfies safety requirements, and to what extent an employer is liable for (10) _____ an employee's home. An expert on German employment law said new legislation would be needed to (11) _____. He told the CNN news agency that: "It seems likely that insurers will...have to (12) _____ often."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents.html>

1. Where is the court that decided this ruling?
2. What could injuries sustained while working at home be eligible for?
3. What injury did the man in the court ruling suffer?
4. What did a court say the first journey from bed to the home office was?
5. What could there be a rush to get heard in courts?
6. How many people have switched to working from home?
7. What does the article say the ruling has implications for?
8. What did a legal expert say would be needed to decide future claims?
9. What news agency did a legal expert talk to?
10. Who might have to revisit the ruling often?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents.html>

- 1) Where is the court that decided this ruling?
 - a) Tahiti
 - b) the USA
 - c) Germany
 - d) England
- 2) What could injuries sustained while working at home be eligible for?
 - a) compensation payments
 - b) time off work
 - c) a promotion
 - d) a pay review
- 3) What injury did the man in the court ruling suffer?
 - a) a broken little finger
 - b) a fractured vertebra
 - c) stress and burnout
 - d) hurt pride
- 4) What did a court say the first journey from bed to the home office was?
 - a) sleepy
 - b) tiring
 - c) eligible for travel pay
 - d) an insured work route
- 5) What could there be a rush to get heard in courts?
 - a) historic cases
 - b) music
 - c) similar cases
 - d) cases from other countries
- 6) How many people have switched to working from home?
 - a) hundreds of thousands
 - b) millions
 - c) billions
 - d) tens of thousands
- 7) What does the article say the ruling has implications for?
 - a) all of us
 - b) getting out of bed
 - c) desk design
 - d) health and safety
- 8) What did a legal expert say would be needed to decide future claims?
 - a) more cases
 - b) new legislation
 - c) better lawyers
 - d) a faster Internet
- 9) What news agency did a legal expert talk to?
 - a) BBC
 - b) CNN
 - c) Al Jazeera
 - d) ABC
- 10) Who might have to revisit the ruling often?
 - a) insurers
 - b) home workers
 - c) Germany's leader
 - d) the man in the article

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents.html>

Role A – Walking

You think walking is the best way to commute to work. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): subway, bicycle or e-scooter.

Role B – Subway

You think subway is the best way to commute to work. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): walking, bicycle or e-scooter.

Role C – Bicycle

You think bicycle is the best way to commute to work. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): subway, walking or e-scooter.

Role D – E-scooter

You think e-scooter is the best way to commute to work. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): subway, bicycle or walking.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents.html>

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

workplace	accident

- 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">• walking• few• such• landmark• fractured• rush	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• notion• switched• issues• satisfies• expert• often
--	---

WORKPLACE ACCIDENTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents.html>

Write five GOOD questions about workplace accidents 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.

WORKPLACE ACCIDENTS DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'accident'?
3. Do you like working from home?
4. What are the disadvantages of working from home?
5. Would you rather work at home or go into the office?
6. Who is responsible for injuries at home while working?
7. Should companies provide desks for workers' homes?
8. Is commuting to work a waste of time?
9. Should companies be liable for workplace accidents in the home?
10. What accidents have you had at home?

Injuries in home offices are workplace accidents – 13th December, 2021
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WORKPLACE ACCIDENTS DISCUSSION

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 'workplace'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What are the advantages of working from home?
15. What constitutes a workplace?
16. Has the coronavirus pandemic changed the way you work?
17. Who is responsible for health and safety in a home office?
18. Do you think more people will claim home office injuries?
19. How can we avoid workplace injuries?
20. What questions would you like to ask the company in this article?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents.html>

A German court has ruled that (1) _____ an injury while walking from your bedroom to your home office (2) _____ a workplace accident. The judges decided that walking a few metres from your bed to your desk in another room in your house can be considered a commute to work. (3) _____ such, any injuries sustained on that short journey can be eligible (4) _____ compensation payouts. The landmark ruling was made in a case where a man slipped while descending a staircase from his bedroom to his home office and (5) _____ a vertebra. The court decided that the "first morning journey from bed to the home office is an (6) _____ work route". This decision could start a rush to get similar cases heard in courts.

The notion of (7) _____ constitutes a workplace has changed since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. Millions of people have switched from working in offices to working at home. This has implications (8) _____ health and safety issues as well as the legalities around workplace accidents. One big question concerns who is responsible for ensuring a home office (9) _____ safety requirements, and to what extent an employer is liable (10) _____ injuries sustained in an employee's home. An expert on German employment law said new legislation would be needed to decide future (11) _____. He told the CNN news agency that: "It seems likely that (12) _____ will...have to revisit this ruling often."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. | (a) sustenance | (b) sustaining | (c) sustain | (d) ascertain |
| 2. | (a) reconstitutes | (b) constitutes | (c) constitution | (d) constituents |
| 3. | (a) Is | (b) Has | (c) Was | (d) As |
| 4. | (a) to | (b) for | (c) at | (d) on |
| 5. | (a) injected | (b) wiped | (c) spliced | (d) fractured |
| 6. | (a) assured | (b) reassured | (c) insured | (d) ensured |
| 7. | (a) what | (b) that | (c) as | (d) such |
| 8. | (a) to | (b) of | (c) for | (d) on |
| 9. | (a) stiffens | (b) stultifies | (c) satiates | (d) satisfies |
| 10. | (a) for | (b) on | (c) at | (d) in |
| 11. | (a) claims | (b) clams | (c) clamps | (d) calms |
| 12. | (a) insurers | (b) readers | (c) tiers | (d) raconteurs |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents.html>

Paragraph 1

1. itnussngia an injury while walking
2. cnteisttuso a workplace accident
3. be considered a cmemuot to work
4. be lgieblei for compensation payouts
5. slipped while sdngdeienc a staircase
6. cetrfduar a vertebra

Paragraph 2

7. the coronavirus apnidmec
8. imilcatonspi for health and safety issues
9. the lteasliige around workplace accidents
10. an employer is ibalel for injuries
11. new tioeglanlsi would be needed
12. rsiuersn will have to revisit this

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () in another room in your house can be considered a commute to work. As such, any injuries
- () that: "It seems likely that insurers will...have to revisit this ruling often."
- () a man slipped while descending a staircase from his bedroom to his home office and fractured
- (**1**) A German court has ruled that sustaining an injury while walking from your bedroom to your home office constitutes
- () a vertebra. The court decided that the "first morning journey from bed to the home office is
- () pandemic. Millions of people have switched from working in offices to working at home. This has implications for health
- () and safety issues as well as the legalities around workplace accidents. One big question concerns who is responsible
- () sustained in an employee's home. An expert on German employment law said new
- () a workplace accident. The judges decided that walking a few metres from your bed to your desk
- () an insured work route". This decision could start a rush to get similar cases heard in courts.
- () for ensuring a home office satisfies safety requirements, and to what extent an employer is liable for injuries
- () The notion of what constitutes a workplace has changed since the beginning of the coronavirus
- () sustained on that short journey can be eligible for compensation payouts. The landmark ruling was made in a case where
- () legislation would be needed to decide future claims. He told the CNN news agency

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents.html>

1. while injury Sustaining walking from your bedroom . an
2. short journey . that on sustained injuries Any
3. case . was ruling The made landmark a in
4. while man A descending staircase . a slipped
5. get in courts . heard Rush to similar cases
6. what notion The a workplace . constitutes of
7. offices . switched in from people of Millions working
8. question concerns is who big responsible . One
9. To injuries . are what extent liable for employers
10. ruling have to Insurers often . this will revisit

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents.html>

A German court has *riled* / *ruled* that sustaining an injury while walking from your bedroom to your home office constitutes *the* / *a* workplace accident. The judges decided *what* / *that* walking a few metres from your bed to your desk in another room in your house can be *reported* / *considered* a commute to work. As such, any injuries *sustained* / *sustenance* on that short journey can be eligible for compensation *payout* / *payouts*. The landmark ruling was made in a *brief* / *case* where a man slipped while descending a staircase from his bedroom to his home office and *fractured* / *fracturing* a vertebra. The court decided that the "first morning journey from bed to the home office is an *insured* / *assured* work route". This decision could start a rush to get similar cases *heard* / *spoken* in courts.

The *potion* / *notion* of what constitutes a workplace has changed since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. Millions of people have *slashed* / *switched* from working in offices to working at home. This has *implications* / *inductions* for health and safety issues as well as the *lawyers* / *legalities* around workplace accidents. One big question concerns who is responsible for *insuring* / *ensuring* a home office satisfies safety requirements, and to what *extent* / *request* an employer is liable for injuries *effected* / *sustained* in an employee's home. An *expert* / *expat* on German employment law said new legislation would be needed to decide future *clams* / *claims*. He told the CNN news agency that: "It seems likely that insurers will...have to revisit this *ruling* / *ruler* often."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents.html>

_ G_rm_n c__rt h_s r_l_d th_t s_st__n_ng _n
_nj_ry wh_l_ w_lk_ng fr_m y__r b_dr__m t_ y__r h_m_
_ff_c_ c_nst_t_t_s _ w_rkpl_c_ _cc_d_nt. Th_ j_dg_s
d_c_d_d th_t w_lk_ng _ f_w m_tr_s fr_m y__r b_d t_
y__r d_sk _n _n_th_r r__m _n y__r h__s_ c_n b_
c_ns_d_r_d _ c_mm_t_ t_ w_rk. _s s_ch, _ny _nj_r__s
s_st__n_d _n th_t sh_rt j__rn_y c_n b_ _l_g_bl_ fr
c_m_p_n_s_t__n p_y__ts. Th_ l_ndm_rk r_l_ng w_s m_d_
_n _ c_s_ wh_r_ _ m_n sl_pp_d wh_l_ d_sc_nd_ng _
st__rc_s_ fr_m h_s b_dr__m t_ h_s h_m_ _ff_c_ _nd
fr_ct_r_d _ v_rt_br_. Th_ c__rt d_c_d_d th_t th_ "f_rst
m_rn_ng j__rn_y fr_m b_d t_ th_ h_m_ _ff_c_ _s _n
_ns_r_d w_rk r__t". Th_s d_c_s__n c__ld st_rt _ r_sh
t_ g_t s_m_l_r c_s_s h__rd _n c__rts.

Th_ n_t__n _f wh_t c_nst_t_t_s _ w_rkpl_c_ h_s
ch_ng_d s_nc_ th_ b_g_nn_ng _f th_ c_r_n_v_r_s
p_nd_m_c. M_ll__ns _f p__pl_ h_v_ sw_tch_d fr_m
w_rk_ng _n _ff_c_s t_ w_rk_ng _t h_m_. Th_s h_s
_mpl_c_t__ns fr h__lth _nd s_f_ty _ss__s _s w_ll _s
th_ l_g_l_t__s _r__nd w_rkpl_c_ _cc_d_nts. _n_ b_g
q__st__n c_nc_rns wh_ _s r_sp_ns_bl_ fr _ns_r_ng _
h_m_ _ff_c_ s_t_sf__s s_f_ty r_q__r_m_nts, _nd t_
wh_t _xt_nt _n _mpl_y_r _s l__bl_ fr _nj_r__s
s_st__n_d _n _n _mpl_y__'s h_m_. _n _xp_r_t _n
G_rm_n _mpl_ym_nt l_w s__d n_w l_g_sl_t__n w__ld b_
n__d_d t_ d_c_d_ f_t_r_ cl__ms. H_ t_ld th_ CNN
n_ws _g_ncy th_t: "t_ s__ms l_k_ly th_t _ns_r_rs
w_ll...h_v_ t_ r_v_s_t th_s r_l_ng _ft_n."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents.html>

a german court has ruled that sustaining an injury while walking from your bedroom to your home office constitutes a workplace accident the judges decided that walking a few metres from your bed to your desk in another room in your house can be considered a commute to work as such any injuries sustained on that short journey can be eligible for compensation payouts the landmark ruling was made in a case where a man slipped while descending a staircase from his bedroom to his home office and fractured a vertebra the court decided that the first morning journey from bed to the home office is an insured work route this decision could start a rush to get similar cases heard in courts

the notion of what constitutes a workplace has changed since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic millions of people have switched from working in offices to working at home this has implications for health and safety issues as well as the legalities around workplace accidents one big question concerns who is responsible for ensuring a home office satisfies safety requirements and to what extent an employer is liable for injuries sustained in an employees home an expert on german employment law said new legislation would be needed to decide future claims he told the cnn news agency that it seems likely that insurers will have to revisit this ruling often

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2112/211213-workplace-accidents.html>

A German court has ruled that sustaining an injury while walking from your bedroom to your home office constitutes a workplace accident. The judge decided that walking a few metres from your bed to your desk in another room in your house can be considered a commute to work. As such, any injury sustained on that short journey can be eligible for compensation payouts. The landmark ruling was made in a case where a man slipped while descending a staircase from his bedroom to his home office and fractured a vertebra. The court decided that the "first morning journey from bed to the home office is an insured work route". This decision could start a rush to get similar cases heard in courts. The notion of what constitutes a workplace has changed since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. Millions of people have switched from working in offices to working at home. This has implications for health and safety issues as well as the legalities around workplace accidents. One big question concerns who is responsible for ensuring a home office satisfies safety requirements, and to what extent an employer is liable for injuries sustained in an employee's home. An expert on German employment law said new legislation would be needed to decide future claims. He told the CNN news agency that: "It seems likely that insurers will... have to revisit this ruling often."

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. WORKPLACE ACCIDENTS: Make a poster about workplace accidents. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. HOME OFFICE: Write a magazine article about home offices being subject to all the same safety regulations as a company office. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on workplace accidents. Ask him/her three questions about workplace accidents. Give him/her three of your ideas. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. b 2. d 3. f 4. e 5. c 6. g 7. a
8. h 9. j 10. l 11. m 12. n 13. k 14. i

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 T 2 T 3 T 4 F 5 F 6 F 7 T 8 T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. g	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. f
6. j	7. a	8. e	9. h	10. c

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- Germany
- Compensation payouts
- A fractured vertebra
- An insured work route
- Similar cases
- Millions
- Health and safety
- New legislation
- CNN
- Insurers

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

- Sustaining an injury while walking from your bedroom.
- Any injuries sustained on that short journey.
- The landmark ruling was made in a case.
- A man slipped while descending a staircase.
- Rush to get similar cases heard in courts.
- The notion of what constitutes a workplace.
- Millions of people switched from working in offices.
- One big question concerns who is responsible.
- To what extent employers are liable for injuries.
- Insurers will have to revisit this ruling often.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c 2. a 3. b 4. d 5. c 6. b 7. d 8. b 9. b 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)