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Level 6

Travelling to and from work is work, says EU

14th September, 2015

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1509/150914-payroll.html>

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

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1509/150914-payroll.html>

The European Union has ruled that workers with no fixed office should be paid for travelling to and from their first and last appointments of their day. This could have a huge impact on the payroll expenses of companies across Europe. The European Court of Justice said that the journeys of workers who do not have a fixed place of work, and who travel between their home and their customers' premises, are to be paid work. This means potentially higher salaries for care workers, sales staff, plumbers, nannies and other company employees who work from home. The court said it was to protect the health and safety of workers and ensure they did not work longer than 48 hours per week.

The ruling means that thousands of companies across Europe could be forced to change their business arrangements. Many will have to rearrange the working schedules of employees to ensure that their first and last appointments are near their homes. A British employment lawyer, Chris Tutton, told the BBC that: "Unless [bosses] adjust working hours or ask employees to opt out of the 48-hour working week, employees could quickly exceed the number of hours they are legally allowed to work. Bosses could therefore soon find that they are operating illegally and be at risk of facing costly claims against them." The ruling does not affect people's daily commute to their normal, fixed place of work.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-34210002>
<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/travelling-to-work-is-work-court-rules-353288.html>
<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/travelling-european-court-rules-175012116.html#hzpZ9QP>

WARM-UPS

1. WORKING: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about working. 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?

European Union / workers / office / traveling / appointments / journeys / customers / business arrangements / schedules / lawyer / illegally / be at risk / commute

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

3. WORKING CONDITIONS: How can working conditions be improved? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Improvements	Problems with these
Salary		
Workplace		
Benefits		
Travelling		
Holidays		
Promotion		

4. PAID COMMUTING: Students A **strongly** believe commuting time should be paid; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. JOBS: Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- soldier
- nurse
- police officer
- flight attendant
- secretary
- store manager
- teacher
- care worker

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

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1509/150914-payroll.html>

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

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. The EU ruling only applies to people with no fixed office. | T / F |
| b. The ruling applies to all workers' appointments throughout the day. | T / F |
| c. The ruling will not apply to care staff or nannies. | T / F |
| d. The EU wants ensure people do not work more than 48 hours a week. | T / F |
| e. Thousands of companies will have to change workers' schedules. | T / F |
| f. Companies will cancel the last appointments of workers each day. | T / F |
| g. Bosses will have to ask workers to work longer than 48 hours a week. | T / F |
| h. The EU ruling also applies to workers who commute to their offices. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. ruled | a. safeguard |
| 2. impact | b. possibly |
| 3. fixed | c. modify |
| 4. potentially | d. effect |
| 5. protect | e. unlawfully |
| 6. forced | f. running into |
| 7. appointments | g. ordered |
| 8. adjust | h. made |
| 9. illegally | i. set |
| 10. facing | j. commitments |

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. workers with no | a. their customers' premises |
| 2. travelling to and from their first | b. arrangements |
| 3. payroll | c. risk |
| 4. travel between their home and | d. and last appointments |
| 5. protect the health | e. lawyer |
| 6. be forced to change their business | f. and safety of workers |
| 7. rearrange the working schedules | g. fixed office |
| 8. employment | h. the number of hours |
| 9. exceed | i. expenses |
| 10. be at | j. of employees |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1509/150914-payroll.html>

The European Union has (1) _____ that workers with no fixed office should be paid for travelling to and from their first and last appointments of their day. This could have a (2) _____ impact on the (3) _____ expenses of companies across Europe. The European Court of Justice said that the (4) _____ of workers who do not have a (5) _____ place of work, and who travel between their home and their customers' premises, are to be paid work. This means (6) _____ higher salaries for care workers, sales staff, plumbers, nannies and other company employees who work from home. The court said it was to (7) _____ the health and safety of workers and (8) _____ they did not work longer than 48 hours per week.

potentially
journeys
huge
ensure
protect
ruled
fixed
payroll

The ruling means that thousands of companies across Europe could be (9) _____ to change their business arrangements. Many will have to (10) _____ the working schedules of employees to ensure that their first and last appointments are near their homes. A British employment (11) _____, Chris Tutton, told the BBC that: "Unless [bosses] adjust working hours or ask employees to (12) _____ out of the 48-hour working week, employees could quickly (13) _____ the number of hours they are (14) _____ allowed to work. Bosses could therefore soon find that they are operating illegally and be at risk of (15) _____ costly claims against them." The ruling does not affect people's daily (16) _____ to their normal, fixed place of work.

legally
opt
rearrange
commute
exceed
forced
facing
lawyer

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1509/150914-payroll.html>

- 1) workers with no fixed office should be paid for travelling to and from their first _____
 - a. and lasting appointments
 - b. and least appointments
 - c. and lost appointments
 - d. and last appointments
- 2) This could have a huge impact on the payroll expenses of _____
 - a. accompanies across Europe
 - b. companies a cross Europe
 - c. accompanies a cross Europe
 - d. companies across Europe
- 3) the journeys of workers who do not have a fixed _____
 - a. place of work
 - b. place for work
 - c. place off work
 - d. place of works
- 4) higher salaries for care workers, sales staff, plumbers, nannies and _____
 - a. another company employees
 - b. other company employees
 - c. other company employee
 - d. other company employers
- 5) The court said it was to protect the health and _____
 - a. salary of workers
 - b. safety for workers
 - c. safety of workers
 - d. safe tea of workers
- 6) companies across Europe could be forced to change their _____
 - a. business arrangements
 - b. businesses arrangements
 - c. business arrangement
 - d. business arrange mints
- 7) Many will have to rearrange the working _____
 - a. schedules off employers
 - b. schedule of employees
 - c. schedules of employees
 - d. schedules of employers
- 8) ensure that their first and last appointments are _____
 - a. near their homes
 - b. nearly their homes
 - c. nears their homes
 - d. near the homes
- 9) adjust working hours or ask employees to opt out of the 48-_____
 - a. hour working in week
 - b. hour work week
 - c. hour working week
 - d. hour working weekly
- 10) operating illegally and be at risk of facing costly _____
 - a. clams against them
 - b. cranes against then
 - c. climbs against them
 - d. claims against them

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1509/150914-payroll.html>

The European Union has ruled that workers (1) _____ should be paid for travelling to and from (2) _____ appointments of their day. This could have (3) _____ the payroll expenses of companies across Europe. The European Court of Justice said that (4) _____ workers who do not have a fixed place of work, and who travel between their home and their customers' premises, are to be paid work. This (5) _____ salaries for care workers, sales staff, plumbers, nannies and other company employees who work from home. The court said (6) _____ the health and safety of workers and ensure they did not work longer than 48 hours per week.

The (7) _____ thousands of companies across Europe could be forced to change their business arrangements. Many will have (8) _____ working schedules of employees to ensure that their first and last appointments (9) _____ homes. A British employment lawyer, Chris Tutton, told the BBC that: "Unless [bosses] adjust working hours or ask employees (10) _____ 48-hour working week, employees could (11) _____ the number of hours they are legally allowed to work. Bosses could therefore soon find that they are operating illegally and be at risk of facing costly claims against them." The ruling does not affect people's daily (12) _____ normal, fixed place of work.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1509/150914-payroll.html>

1. Which workers come under the EU's new ruling?

2. What kind of expenses could the ruling have a huge impact on?

3. What could be higher for nannies and care workers?

4. What does the EU want to protect?

5. What is the maximum hours per week the EU wants for workers?

6. What could businesses be forced to change?

7. Where should a worker's first and last appointments be near?

8. What is the job of Chris Tutton?

9. What could bosses be at risk of facing?

10. Who does the ruling not affect?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1509/150914-payroll.html>

1. Which workers come under the EU's new ruling?
 - a) commuters
 - b) employment lawyers
 - c) company bosses
 - d) those with no fixed offices
2. What kind of expenses could the ruling have a huge impact on?
 - a) legal
 - b) payroll
 - c) weekly
 - d) fixed
3. What could be higher for nannies and care workers?
 - a) travelling costs
 - b) expectations
 - c) working hours
 - d) salaries
4. What does the EU want to protect?
 - a) itself
 - b) privacy
 - c) workers' health and safety
 - d) employers
5. What is the maximum hours per week the EU wants for workers?
 - a) 42
 - b) 38
 - c) 46
 - d) 48
6. What could businesses be forced to change?
 - a) contracts
 - b) offices
 - c) business arrangements
 - d) countries
7. Where should a worker's first and last appointments be near?
 - a) their home
 - b) company HQ
 - c) a train station
 - d) the beginning of the month
8. What is the job of Chris Tutton?
 - a) CEO
 - b) plumber
 - c) lawyer
 - d) EU politician
9. What could bosses be at risk of facing?
 - a) overtime
 - b) costly claims
 - c) the music
 - d) the sack
10. Who does the ruling not affect?
 - a) regular commuters
 - b) everybody
 - c) plumbers
 - d) nannies

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1509/150914-payroll.html>

Role A – Soldier

You think being a soldier is the best job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): care worker, teacher or flight attendant.

Role B – Care worker

You think being a care worker is the best job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): soldier, teacher or flight attendant.

Role C – Teacher

You think being a teacher is the best job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): care worker, soldier or flight attendant.

Role D – Flight attendant

You think being a flight attendant is the best job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): care worker, teacher or soldier.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1509/150914-payroll.html>

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

fixed	office
--------------	---------------

- 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">• ruled• huge• payroll• care• protect• 48	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• forced• near• lawyer• therefore• risk• daily
--	---

WORKING SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1509/150914-payroll.html>

Write five GOOD questions about working 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.

WORKING DISCUSSION

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

- 1) What did you think when you read the headline?
- 2) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'working'?
- 3) What do you think about what you read?
- 4) Should all workers get paid for travelling?
- 5) What do you think companies feel about this new ruling?
- 6) What effect do you think this will have on the economy?
- 7) Should the traveling to work rate be the same as the working rate?
- 8) Is this new ruling fair if a company goes out of business?
- 9) How does this apply to the health and safety of workers?
- 10) What do you think of the 48-hour limit on the working week?

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WORKING DISCUSSION

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

- 11) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- 12) What laws about working are unfair?
- 13) What laws need to be introduced to protect workers?
- 14) Will customers be happy about higher charges because of this new ruling?
- 15) Why might a worker opt out of the 48-hour working week?
- 16) What things do you dislike about working?
- 17) What do you think workers in offices think about the ruling?
- 18) What can companies do to reduce the effect of the ruling?
- 19) How will this change those professions affected?
- 20) What questions would you like to ask the European Court?

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 <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1509/150914-payroll.html>

The European Union has (1) _____ that workers with no fixed office should be paid for travelling to and from their first and last appointments of their day. This could have a huge impact (2) _____ the payroll (3) _____ of companies across Europe. The European Court of Justice said that the journeys of workers who do not have a fixed place of work, and who travel between their home and their customers' (4) _____, are to be paid work. This means potentially higher salaries for care workers, sales staff, plumbers, (5) _____ and other company employees who work from home. The court said it was to protect the health and safety of workers and (6) _____ they did not work longer than 48 hours per week.

The ruling means that thousands of companies across Europe could (7) _____ forced to change their business arrangements. Many will have to rearrange the working schedules (8) _____ employees to ensure that their first and last appointments are near their homes. A British employment lawyer, Chris Tutton, told the BBC that: "(9)_____ [bosses] adjust working hours or ask employees to opt out of the 48-hour working week, employees could quickly (10) _____ the number of hours they are legally allowed to work. Bosses could therefore soon find that they are operating illegally and be (11) _____ risk of facing costly claims against them." The ruling does not affect people's daily (12) _____ to their normal, fixed place of work.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) rule | (b) ruling | (c) ruled | (d) rulers |
| 2. | (a) on | (b) by | (c) at | (d) from |
| 3. | (a) expenses | (b) expanses | (c) expends | (d) expands |
| 4. | (a) premises | (b) promises | (c) primroses | (d) presumes |
| 5. | (a) daddies | (b) grannies | (c) mummies | (d) nannies |
| 6. | (a) assure | (b) sure | (c) reassure | (d) ensure |
| 7. | (a) be | (b) have | (c) do | (d) take |
| 8. | (a) for | (b) to | (c) by | (d) of |
| 9. | (a) unless | (b) useless | (c) far less | (d) limitless |
| 10. | (a) succeed | (b) exceed | (c) recede | (d) cede |
| 11. | (a) by | (b) at | (c) for | (d) as |
| 12. | (a) commute | (b) commune | (c) compute | (d) commutate |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1509/150914-payroll.html>

Paragraph 1

1. their first and last ptetpoinansm
2. have a huge tcaipm
3. payroll npesexes
4. their customers' meisrpse
5. teayliptoIn higher salaries
6. nueser they did not work longer

Paragraph 2

7. change their business aesernmtngar
8. the working lsecsehdu of employees
9. jsduat working hours
10. ecdeex the number of hours
11. operating yllgaleil
12. people's daily ocetmum

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1509/150914-payroll.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

()	paid work. This means potentially higher salaries for care workers, sales staff, plumbers, nannies and other
()	week, employees could quickly exceed the number of hours they are legally allowed to work. Bosses could
()	The ruling means that thousands of companies across Europe could be forced to
()	that their first and last appointments are near their homes. A British employment lawyer, Chris Tutton, told
(1)	The European Union has ruled that workers with no fixed office should be paid for travelling to and
()	therefore soon find that they are operating illegally and be at risk of facing costly claims against
()	the BBC that: "Unless [bosses] adjust working hours or ask employees to opt out of the 48-hour working
()	safety of workers and ensure they did not work longer than 48 hours per week.
()	them." The ruling does not affect people's daily commute to their normal, fixed place of work.
()	change their business arrangements. Many will have to rearrange the working schedules of employees to ensure
()	place of work, and who travel between their home and their customers' premises, are to be
()	of companies across Europe. The European Court of Justice said that the journeys of workers who do not have a fixed
()	from their first and last appointments of their day. This could have a huge impact on the payroll expenses
()	company employees who work from home. The court said it was to protect the health and

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1509/150914-payroll.html>

1. office should be paid for travelling Workers with no fixed .

2. expenses This could have a huge impact on the payroll .

3. salaries This for means care potentially workers higher .

4. home from work who employees company Other .

5. longer work not did they Ensure week per hours 48 than .

6. the will working have schedules to rearrange Many .

7. the opt Ask working 48-hour out employees week of to .

8. of quickly hours exceed the Employees number could .

9. claims risk costly them at facing against Be of .

10. commute not affect The people's ruling daily does .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1509/150914-payroll.html>

The European Union has *ruling / ruled* that workers with no *fixing / fixed* office should be paid for travelling to and *from / fro* their first and last appointments of their day. This could have a huge *impact / compact* on the payroll expenses of companies across Europe. The European Court of Justice said that the journeys of workers *which / who* do not have a fixed place of work, and who travel between their home and their customers' *promises / premises*, are to be paid work. This means *potently / potentially* higher salaries for care workers, sales staff, plumbers, *nannies / mummies* and other company employees who work from home. The court said it was to protect the health and *safe / safety* of workers and ensure they did not work longer than 48 hours *per / par* week.

The *ruling / ruled* means that thousands of companies across Europe could be forced to *charge / change* their business arrangements. Many will have to rearrange the working schedules of employees to *insure / ensure* that their first and last appointments are *near / nearly* their homes. A British employment lawyer, Chris Tutton, told the BBC that: "*Unless / Useless* [bosses] adjust working hours or ask employees to opt *in / out* of the 48-hour working week, employees could quickly *exceed / succeed* the number of hours they are legally *allowed / allowance* to work. Bosses could therefore soon find that they are operating illegally and be *at / to* risk of facing costly claims against them." The ruling does not affect people's daily commute to their *normally / normal*, fixed place of work.

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 <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1509/150914-payroll.html>

Th_ _ _ r_p_ _ n _ n _ n h_s r_l_d th_t w_rk_rs w_th n_ f_x_d _ff_c_ sh_ _ld b_ p_ _d f_r tr_v_ll_ng t_ _nd fr_m th_ _r f_rst _nd l_st _pp_ _ntm_nts _f th_ _r d_y. Th_s c_ _ld h_v_ _ h_g_ _mp_ct _n th_ p_yr_ll _xp_ns_s _f c_mp_n_ _s _cr_ss _ _r_p_. Th_ _ _ r_p_ _ n C_ _rt _f J_st_c_ s_ _d th_t th_ j_ _rn_ys _f w_rk_rs wh_ d_ n_t h_v_ _ f_x_d pl_c_ _f w_rk, _nd wh_ tr_v_l b_tw_ _n th_ _r h_m_ _nd th_ _r c_st_m_rs' pr_m_s_s, _r_t_b_ p_ _d w_rk. Th_s m_ _ns p_t_nt_ _lly h_gh_r_s_l_r_ _s f_r c_r_w_rk_rs, s_l_s st_ff, pl_mb_rs, n_nn_ _s _nd th_r c_mp_ny _mpl_y_ _s wh_ w_rk fr_m h_m_. Th_ c_ _rt s_ _d _t w_s t_ pr_t_ct th_ h_ _lth _nd s_f_ty _f w_rk_rs _nd _ns_r_ th_y d_d n_t w_rk l_ng_r th_n 48 h_ _rs p_r w_ _k.

Th_ r_l_ng m_ _ns th_t th_ s_nds _f c_mp_n_ _s _cr_ss _ _r_p_ c_ _ld b_ f_rc_d t_ ch_ng_ th_ _r b_s_n_ss _rr_ng_m_nts. M_ny w_ll h_v_ t_ r_ _rr_ng_ th_ w_rk_ng sch_d_l_s _f _mpl_y_ _s t_ _ns_r_ th_t th_ _r f_rst _nd l_st _pp_ _ntm_nts _r_n_ _r th_ _r h_m_s. _ Br_t_sh _mpl_ym_nt l_wy_r, Chr_s T_tt_n, t_ld th_ BBC th_t: "_nl_ss [b_ss_s] _dj_st w_rk_ng h_ _rs _r _sk _mpl_y_ _s t_ _pt_ _t _f th_ 48-h_ _r w_rk_ng w_ _k, _mpl_y_ _s c_ _ld q_ _ckly _xc_ _d th_ n_mb_r _f h_ _rs th_y _r_ l_g_lly _ll_w_d t_ w_rk. B_ss_s c_ _ld th_r_f_r_ s_ _n f_nd th_t th_y _r_ _p_r_t_ng _ll_g_lly _nd b_ _t r_sk _f f_c_ng c_stly cl_ _ms _g_ _nst th_m." Th_ r_l_ng d_ _s n_t _ff_ct p_ _pl_'s d_ _ly c_mm_t_ t_ th_ _r n_rm_l, f_x_d pl_c_ _f w_rk.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1509/150914-payroll.html>

the european union has ruled that workers with no fixed office should be paid for travelling to and from their first and last appointments of their day this could have a huge impact on the payroll expenses of companies across europe the european court of justice said that the journeys of workers who do not have a fixed place of work and who travel between their home and their customers' premises are to be paid work this means potentially higher salaries for care workers sales staff plumbers nannies and other company employees who work from home the court said it was to protect the health and safety of workers and ensure they did not work longer than 48 hours per week

the ruling means that thousands of companies across europe could be forced to change their business arrangements many will have to rearrange the working schedules of employees to ensure that their first and last appointments are near their homes a british employment lawyer chris tutton told the bbc that "unless [bosses] adjust working hours or ask employees to opt out of the 48-hour working week employees could quickly exceed the number of hours they are legally allowed to work bosses could therefore soon find that they are operating illegally and be at risk of facing costly claims against them" the ruling does not affect people's daily commute to their normal fixed place of work

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1509/150914-payroll.html>

The European Union has ruled that workers with no fixed offices should be paid for travelling to and from their first and last appointments of their day. This could have a huge impact on the payroll expenses of companies across Europe. The European Court of Justice said that the journeys of workers who do not have a fixed place of work, and who travel between their homes and their customers' premises, are to be paid for. This means potentially higher salaries for care workers, sales staff, plumbers, nannies and other company employees who work from home. The court said it was to protect the health and safety of workers and ensure they did not work longer than 48 hours per week. The ruling means that thousands of companies across Europe could be forced to change their business arrangements. Many will have to rearrange the working schedules of employees to ensure that their first and last appointments are near their homes. A British employment lawyer, Chris Tutton, told the BBC that: "Unless [bosses] adjust working hours or ask employees to opt out of the 48-hour working week, employees could quickly exceed the number of hours they are legally allowed to work. Bosses could therefore soon find that they are operating illegally and be at risk of facing costly claims against them." The ruling does not affect people's daily commute to their normal, fixed place of work.

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 working. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. WORKING HOURS: Make a poster about working hours. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. TRAVELLING TO WORK IS WORK: Write a magazine article about the new ruling that says travelling to work is work. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

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 employment expert. Ask him/her three questions about working hours. Give him/her three of your opinions on changes that should be made to employment laws. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a T b F c F d T e T f F g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. ruled | a. ordered |
| 2. impact | b. effect |
| 3. fixed | c. set |
| 4. potentially | d. possibly |
| 5. protect | e. safeguard |
| 6. forced | f. made |
| 7. appointments | g. commitments |
| 8. adjust | h. modify |
| 9. illegally | i. unlawfully |
| 10. facing | j. running into |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Those with no fixed office
2. Payroll
3. Salaries
4. Workers' health and safety
5. 48
6. Business arrangements
7. Their home
8. Employment lawyer
9. Costly claims (against them)
10. Regular commuters with a fixed place of work

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. d 2. b 3. d 4. c 5. d 6. c 7. a 8. c 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 ;-)