

Train drivers in UK earn more than pilots

19th December, 2018



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Newspapers in England are reporting that subway train drivers get paid more than pilots, doctors, police officers and nurses. The Sunday Times newspaper reports that the three highest-paid drivers on the London

Underground earned \$130,000 last year. This included overtime, bonuses and pension payments. It is a 69 per cent rise in pay since 2012. Journalists say the basic salary of a train driver is \$70,000 a year. This is double the average wage of a nurse in London and more than what many airline pilots earn. The newspaper reports that police officers in London have a starting salary of \$28,000. In addition to their pay, London Underground train drivers get over eight weeks paid holiday a year.

Many people think the high salaries train drivers get are unfair. James Roberts of the Tax-Payers' Alliance said: "These salaries are totally [wrong]....Increasingly, the role of a [subway train] driver is getting easier." He said that many train drivers no longer have to drive the trains because many train lines are fully automated. He said drivers on automated train lines only have to open and close train doors. He was also surprised the drivers were going on strike for more pay. A train drivers' spokesman said their pay was for, "the professionalism, and expertise...of delivering a professional public service for hundreds of thousands of passengers travelling on the Underground...every day."

Sources: metro.co.uk / dailymail.co.uk / the.sun.co.uk

Writing

Nurses should be paid more than train drivers. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

newspapers / train drivers / police officers / overtime / journalists / average / holiday / salaries / unfair / automated / train doors / go on strike / professionalism / passenger

True / False

- a) Newspapers say subway train drivers get more pay than pilots and doctors. T / F
- b) The highest-paid subway drivers in London get over \$125,000 a year. T / F
- c) A basic subway train driver's salary is double the average for a nurse. T / F
- d) London subway train drivers get six weeks vacation a year. T / F
- e) The job of a subway train driver is becoming more difficult. T / F
- f) There are still no automated train lines in London. T / F
- g) London subway train drivers are going on strike for higher pay. T / F
- h) Over a million passengers use the London Underground every day. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. reporting | a. get |
| 2. rise | b. shocked |
| 3. earn | c. plus |
| 4. in addition | d. undeserved |
| 5. holiday | e. travellers |
| 6. unfair | f. increase |
| 7. fully | g. skill |
| 8. surprised | h. vacation |
| 9. expertise | i. writing about |
| 10. passengers | j. completely |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of being a train driver?
- b) What are the dangers of being a train driver?
- c) Would you rather be a train driver or a pilot?
- d) Why should train drivers get a bigger salary than pilots?
- e) What are the bad things about being a train driver?
- f) What do you think of \$130,000 for a train driver?
- g) Should a nurse be paid more than train drivers?
- h) What do you think of a job with eight weeks holiday?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. train drivers get paid | a. holiday a year |
| 2. the three highest- | b. for more pay |
| 3. This is double the average wage | c. expertise |
| 4. In addition | d. paid drivers |
| 5. over eight weeks paid | e. automated |
| 6. the role of a subway train driver is | f. more than pilots |
| 7. many train lines are fully | g. of passengers |
| 8. the drivers were going on strike | h. to their pay |
| 9. professionalism and | i. getting easier |
| 10. hundreds of thousands | j. of a nurse |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What are the good things about being a train driver?
- Is it better to be a subway or over-ground train driver?
- Could robots replace train drivers in the future?
- What do you think of workers going on strike?
- What expertise do train drivers have?
- Would you like to be a train driver?
- What questions would you like to ask train drivers?

Spelling

- doctors, police ofrisefc and nurses
- nraeed \$130,000 last year
- bonuses and osnnepi payments
- the icasb salary of a train driver
- double the eveagra wage
- In dionidta to their pay
- these salaries are ttlolya wrong
- on utotaaemd train lines
- A train drivers' kspnasemo
- the professionalism and resepxtie
- a sraeponiofsl public service
- thousands of sapneesgrs

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Train Driver

You think a train driver has the best job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): teacher, artist or model.

Role B – Teacher

You think a teacher has the best job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): train driver, artist or model.

Role C – Artist

You think an artist has the best job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): teacher, train driver or model.

Role D – Model

You think a model has the best job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): teacher, artist or train driver.

Speaking – Jobs

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

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| • Train driver | • Artist |
| • President | • Movie reviewer |
| • Teacher | • Soccer player |
| • Doctor | • Model |

Answers – True False

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

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.