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Level 3 – 9th January, 2020

Finland gives parents 7-month parental leave

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

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

Finland is giving new parents more time to spend with their babies. The Finnish government has decided to give mothers and fathers seven months of parental leave. This means Finland will almost double the amount of its maternity leave and paternity leave. The new Family Leave Policy will give 164 days to each parent. This is about seven months. Parents can also transfer up to 69 of their own days to their partner. This means it is possible for one parent to take nine months of parental leave. For single parents, Finland is giving all 328 days to the mother or father. Finland's current parental leave gives four months for maternity leave, and two months for fathers.

Finland's government said the new rules were necessary to help young families. Finland's Minister of Social Affairs and Health explained why the country is introducing the new rules. She said: "The model guarantees the child a place at the centre of family benefits, and it promotes wellbeing and gender equality." It will also help to increase the country's declining birth rate. The number of babies born in Finland has dropped for the past nine years. Last year, Finland had the lowest number of babies born in the country since 1868. Finland's neighbour Sweden has the most generous leave policy, offering 240 days per parent. The USA has no national paid leave for mothers or fathers.

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>

WARM-UPS

1. PARENTAL LEAVE: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about parental leave. 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?

new parents / babies / double / maternity leave / transfer / possible / partner / rules / fathers / government / necessary / guarantee / benefits / gender equality / generous

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

3. ONE YEAR: Students A **strongly** believe companies should provide workers one year of paid leave after the birth of their child; Students B **strongly** believe not. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. LEAVE: What do you know about these kinds of leave? How long should they be? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What I Know	How Long?
Parental leave		
Sick leave		
Compassionate leave		
Holiday leave		
Study leave		
Jury service		

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

6. NEW PARENTS: Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways of helping new parents at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Money
- Babysitting
- Chats
- Help with housework
- Education
- Free toys
- Paid leave
- Nursery

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. spend | a. Having twice the usual size, quantity, or strength. |
| 2. double | b. A course of action taken by a government, business, or person. |
| 3. amount | c. Use time to do something. |
| 4. policy | d. A person bringing up a child or children without a partner. |
| 5. transfer | e. Move from one place to another. |
| 6. single parent | f. Belonging to the present time; happening or being used or done now. |
| 7. current | g. A quantity of something, especially the total of a thing or things in number, size, value, or extent. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 8. necessary | h. Showing a readiness to give more of something, as money or time, than is necessary. |
| 9. model | i. The state of being comfortable, healthy, or happy. |
| 10. guarantee | j. The state of having the same rights or opportunities regardless of gender. |
| 11. wellbeing | k. Required to be done, achieved, or present; essential. |
| 12. gender equality | l. A system or thing used as an example to follow or copy. |
| 13. declining | m. Becoming smaller, fewer, or less; decreasing. |
| 14. generous | n. A promise that certain conditions will be done. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

- a. New parents will have more time to spend with their doctors. **T / F**
- b. Finland will almost double the current level of parental leave. **T / F**
- c. One parent can transfer leave days to his/her partner. **T / F**
- d. Single parents in Finland will be able to take 328 days of parental leave. **T / F**
- e. The government said the rules were necessary to help employers. **T / F**
- f. The new rules help to promote gender inequality. **T / F**
- g. Finland's birthrate is at its lowest for over a century. **T / F**
- h. The USA has no national paid parental leave. **T / F**

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. leave | a. needed |
| 2. double | b. pass on |
| 3. transfer | c. fairness |
| 4. single | d. time off |
| 5. current | e. large |
| 6. necessary | f. present |
| 7. introducing | g. falling |
| 8. equality | h. increase twofold |
| 9. declining | i. starting |
| 10. generous | j. unmarried |

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

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. giving new parents more time to | a. parents |
| 2. double the amount | b. to their partner |
| 3. transfer up to 69 of their own days | c. equality |
| 4. it is possible for one parent | d. of its maternity leave |
| 5. single | e. to help young families |
| 6. the new rules were necessary | f. leave policy |
| 7. explained why the country is introducing | g. spend with their babies |
| 8. gender | h. birth rate |
| 9. the country's declining | i. the new rules |
| 10. Sweden has the most generous | j. to take nine months |

GAP FILL

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

Finland is giving new parents more time to (1) _____ with their babies. The Finnish government has decided to give mothers and fathers seven months of (2) _____ leave. This means Finland will almost double the (3) _____ of its maternity leave and paternity leave. The new Family Leave Policy will give 164 days to (4) _____ parent. This is about seven months. Parents can also (5) _____ up to 69 of their (6) _____ days to their partner. This means it is possible for one parent to take nine months of parental leave. For (7) _____ parents, Finland is giving all 328 days to the mother or father. Finland's (8) _____ parental leave gives four months for maternity leave, and two months for fathers.

each
parental
current
transfer
spend
single
amount
own

Finland's government said the new rules were (9) _____ to help young families. Finland's Minister of Social Affairs and Health (10) _____ why the country is introducing the new rules. She said: "The model guarantees the child a place at the centre of family (11) _____, and it promotes wellbeing and gender (12) _____." It will also help to increase the country's (13) _____ birth rate. The number of babies born in Finland has dropped for the past nine years. Last year, Finland had the (14) _____ number of babies born in the country since 1868. Finland's neighbour Sweden has the most (15) _____ leave policy, offering 240 days per parent. The USA has no (16) _____ paid leave for mothers or fathers.

lowest
explained
national
equality
necessary
generous
declining
benefits

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) Finland is giving new parents more time to _____ babies
 - a. spend with them
 - b. spend within their
 - c. spend without their
 - d. spend with their
- 2) decided to give mothers and fathers seven months _____
 - a. of parent all leave
 - b. off parental leave
 - c. off parental leaves
 - d. of parental leave
- 3) almost double the amount of its maternity leave _____
 - a. and paternity leave
 - b. and paternal leave
 - c. and pater natty leave
 - d. and pater knitting leave
- 4) Parents can also transfer up to 69 of their own days _____
 - a. to their partners
 - b. to their partner
 - c. to their partnered
 - d. to their part nary
- 5) Finland's current parental leave gives four months _____
 - a. for mater knitting leave
 - b. for maternal knitting leave
 - c. for mat eternity leave
 - d. for maternity leave
- 6) Finland's government said the new _____
 - a. rules were necessarily
 - b. rules were necessary
 - c. rules were necessitate
 - d. rules were necessaries
- 7) explained why the country is introducing _____
 - a. the newly rules
 - b. the knew rules
 - c. the anew rules
 - d. the new rules
- 8) The model guarantees the child a place at the centre _____
 - a. of familiar benefits
 - b. of family benefits
 - c. of familial benefits
 - d. of families benefits
- 9) It will also help to increase the country's _____
 - a. decline in girth rate
 - b. declining birth rate
 - c. declining bath rate
 - d. declining bathe rate
- 10) Finland's neighbour Sweden has the most _____
 - a. generously leave policy
 - b. generosity leave policy
 - c. generous leave policy
 - d. genius leave policy

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Finland is giving new parents more (1) _____ with their babies. The Finnish government has decided to give mothers and fathers seven months (2) _____. This means Finland will almost (3) _____ of its maternity leave and paternity leave. The new Family Leave Policy will give 164 days to each parent. This is about seven months. Parents can (4) _____ to 69 of their own days to their partner. This means it is possible for one parent to take nine months of parental leave. (5) _____, Finland is giving all 328 days to the mother or father. Finland's current parental (6) _____ months for maternity leave, and two months for fathers.

Finland's government said the new (7) _____ to help young families. Finland's Minister of Social Affairs and Health explained why the country (8) _____ new rules. She said: "The model guarantees the child a place at the centre (9) _____, and it promotes wellbeing and gender equality." It will also help to increase the country's (10) _____. The number of babies born in Finland has dropped for the past nine years. Last year, Finland (11) _____ number of babies born in the country since 1868. Finland's neighbour Sweden has the (12) _____ policy, offering 240 days per parent. The USA has no national paid leave for mothers or fathers.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. Who will Finnish parents be able to spend more time with?
2. What will Finland almost double?
3. How many days parental leave will each parent get?
4. How many days can one parent transfer to their partner?
5. Who will get 328 days of parental leave?
6. Who are the new rules going to help?
7. What kind of equality do the new rules promote?
8. What is declining in Finland?
9. When was the last time Finland's birth rate was so low?
10. How many days national paid parental leave do parents in the USA get?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) Who will Finnish parents be able to spend more time with?
 - a) their parents
 - b) their friends
 - c) their doctors
 - d) their babies
- 2) What will Finland almost double?
 - a) the number of children born
 - b) parental leave
 - c) salaries
 - d) child minders
- 3) How many days parental leave will each parent get?
 - a) 116
 - b) 146
 - c) 164
 - d) 140
- 4) How many days can one parent transfer to their partner?
 - a) 69
 - b) 79
 - c) 59
 - d) 49
- 5) Who will get 328 days of parental leave?
 - a) mothers with twins
 - b) the Prime Minister
 - c) single parents
 - d) company CEOs
- 6) Who are the new rules going to help?
 - a) big families
 - b) young families
 - c) poor families
 - d) doctors
- 7) What kind of equality do the new rules promote?
 - a) income equality
 - b) age equality
 - c) racial equality
 - d) gender equality
- 8) What is declining in Finland?
 - a) the birth rate
 - b) education standards
 - c) baby weight
 - d) the number of midwives
- 9) When was the last time Finland's birth rate was so low?
 - a) 2008
 - b) 1968
 - c) 1868
 - d) 1768
- 10) How many days national paid parental leave do parents in the USA get?
 - a) 72
 - b) none
 - c) 20
 - d) 30

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Money

You think money is the best way to help new parents. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): babysitting, nursery or help with the housework.

Role B – Babysitting

You think babysitting is the best way to help new parents. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): money, nursery or help with the housework.

Role C – Nursery

You think nursery is the best way to help new parents. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): babysitting, money or help with the housework.

Role D – Help with the Housework

You think help with the housework is the best way to help new parents. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): babysitting, nursery or money.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

parent	leave

- 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">• giving• seven• 164• 69• single• two	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• young• guarantees• gender• number• 1868• national
--	--

PARENTAL LEAVE SURVEY

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

PARENTAL LEAVE 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 'parent'?
3. What do you know about Finland?
4. What do you think of seven months of paid leave for new parents?
5. How much leave should parents get?
6. Should parental leave be paid?
7. Should mothers and fathers get the same amount of leave?
8. Why is Finland giving so much parental leave?
9. What effect will the new rule have on Finnish society?
10. What kind of parent are you or would you be?

Finland gives parents 7-month parental leave – 9th January, 2020
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PARENTAL LEAVE 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 'leave'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What can governments do to help young families?
15. What does the government do for young families in your country?
16. How can governments reverse falling birth rates?
17. What is the problem with falling birth rates?
18. How much parental leave would you like?
19. Why do you think the USA has no paid parental leave?
20. What questions would you like to ask the Finnish government?

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/2002/200209-maternity-leave.html>

Finland is (1) _____ new parents more time to spend with their babies. The Finnish government has (2) _____ to give mothers and fathers seven months of parental leave. This means Finland will almost (3) _____ the amount of its maternity leave and paternity leave. The new Family Leave Policy will give 164 days to each parent. This is about seven months. Parents can also (4) _____ up to 69 of their own days to their partner. This means it is possible for one parent to take nine months of parental leave. For (5) _____ parents, Finland is giving all 328 days to the mother or father. Finland's (6) _____ parental leave gives four months for maternity leave, and two months for fathers.

Finland's government said the new rules were (7) _____ to help young families. Finland's Minister of Social Affairs and Health explained why the country is introducing the new rules. She said: "The model (8) _____ the child a place at the centre of family benefits, and it promotes wellbeing and (9) _____ equality." It will also help to increase the country's declining (10) _____ rate. The number of babies born in Finland has dropped for the past nine years. Last year, Finland had the (11) _____ number of babies born in the country since 1868. Finland's neighbour Sweden has the most (12) _____ leave policy, offering 240 days per parent. The USA has no national paid leave for mothers or fathers.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) given | (b) giving | (c) give | (d) gave |
| 2. | (a) decision | (b) decided | (c) derision | (d) decides |
| 3. | (a) duet | (b) two | (c) duo | (d) double |
| 4. | (a) refer | (b) transfer | (c) confer | (d) suffer |
| 5. | (a) singular | (b) single | (c) singularity | (d) singled |
| 6. | (a) currant | (b) currency | (c) current | (d) currently |
| 7. | (a) necessitate | (b) necessarily | (c) necessary | (d) necessities |
| 8. | (a) warranties | (b) evidence | (c) guarantees | (d) proof |
| 9. | (a) grander | (b) grinder | (c) gander | (d) gender |
| 10. | (a) births | (b) birthday | (c) born | (d) birth |
| 11. | (a) lowest | (b) fewest | (c) less | (d) dropped |
| 12. | (a) generosity | (b) genius | (c) generous | (d) ingenious |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. The Finnish tngeroevnm
2. buoeld the amount
3. raeiymntt leave
4. rnesartf up to 69 of their own days
5. silnge parents
6. Finland's current artaepIn leave

Paragraph 2

7. rules were eascsnrey to help young families
8. origndtnicu the new rules
9. The model eugtasnera the child
10. family ieeftnsb
11. gender uitalqye
12. the most esngroeu leave policy

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () decided to give mothers and fathers seven months of parental leave. This means Finland will almost double
- () to each parent. This is about seven months. Parents can also transfer up to 69 of their own
- (**1**) Finland is giving new parents more time to spend with their babies. The Finnish government has
- () nine years. Last year, Finland had the lowest number of babies born in the country since 1868. Finland's
- () declining birth rate. The number of babies born in Finland has dropped for the past
- () days to their partner. This means it is possible for one parent to take nine months of parental
- () Finland's government said the new rules were necessary to help young families. Finland's Minister of Social Affairs
- () and Health explained why the country is introducing the new rules. She said: "The model guarantees the child a
- () neighbour Sweden has the most generous leave policy, offering 240 days
- () place at the centre of family benefits, and it promotes wellbeing and gender equality." It will also help to increase the country's
- () the amount of its maternity leave and paternity leave. The new Family Leave Policy will give 164 days
- () leave. For single parents, Finland is giving all 328 days to the mother or father. Finland's current
- () per parent. The USA has no national paid leave for mothers or fathers.
- () parental leave gives four months for maternity leave, and two months for fathers.

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. time to their More babies . spend with
2. double of the amount maternity its leave . Almost
3. to of days . 69 up their own Transfer
4. parent take one months . to Possible for nine
5. months . four gives leave Finland's parental current
6. to rules necessary families . were New young help
7. is rules . country Why introducing the the new
8. increase declining birth the country's to rate . Help
9. of had lowest number babies the born . Finland
10. policy . has Sweden generous most the leave

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Finland is giving new parents more time to *purchase / spend* with their babies. The Finnish government has decided to give mothers and fathers seven months of *patent / parental* leave. This means Finland will almost *double / twice* the amount of its maternity leave and *fraternity / paternity* leave. The new Family Leave Policy will give 164 days to *per / each* parent. This is about seven months. Parents can also transfer *down / up* to 69 of their own *day / days* to their partner. This means it is *possibility / possible* for one parent to take nine months of parental leave. For single parents, Finland is *given / giving* all 328 days to the mother or father. Finland's current parental leave gives four months for maternity leave, and two months *for / of* fathers.

Finland's government said the new rules were *necessarily / necessary* to help young *families / family*. Finland's Minister of Social Affairs and Health explained why the country is introducing *a / the* new rules. She said: "The model *guarantees / warranties* the child a place at the centre of family benefits, and it *demotes / promotes* wellbeing and gender equality." It will also help to increase the country's *reclining / declining* birth rate. The number of babies born *on / in* Finland has dropped for the *past / passed* nine years. Last year, Finland had the lowest number of babies born in the country *since / from* 1868. Finland's neighbour Sweden has the most generous leave policy, offering 240 days per parent. The USA has no *nationally / national* paid leave for mothers or fathers.

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/2002/200209-maternity-leave.html>

F_n l_n d _s g_v_n g n_w p_r_n t_s m_r_ t_m_ t_ s
p_n d_w_t h t h__ r b_b__ s . Th_ F_n n_s h g_v_r n
m_n t h_s d_c_d_d t_ g_v_ m_t h_r s _n d f_t h_r s
s_v_n m_n t h_s _f p_r_n t_l l__ v_. Th_s m__ n_s
F_n l_n d w_l l _l m_s t d__ b_l_ t h_ _m__ n t _f _t s
m_t_r n_t y l__ v_ _n d p_t_r n_t y l__ v_. Th_ n_w
F_m_l y L__ v_ P_l_c y w_l l g_v_ 164 d_y s t__
c h p_r_n t . Th_s _s _b__ t s_v_n m_n t h_s .
P_r_n t_s c_n _l_s_ t_r_n s_f_r _p t_ 69 _f t h__ r
_w_n d_y s t_ t h__ r p_r_t n_r . Th_s m__ n_s _t
_s p_s s_b_l_ f_r _n_ p_r_n t t_ t_k_ n_n_ m_n t h_s
_f p_r_n t_l l__ v_. F_r s_n g_l_ p_r_n t_s , F_n l_n
d _s g_v_n g _l l 328 d_y s t_ t h_ m_t h_r _r
f_t h_r . F_n l_n d 's c_r_r n_t p_r_n t_l l__ v_ g_v_s
f__ r m_n t h_s f_r m_t_r n_t y l__ v_ , _n d t w_
m_n t h_s f_r f_t h_r s .

F_n l_n d 's g_v_r n m_n t s__ d t h_ n_w r_l_s
w_r_ n_c_s s_r y t_ h_l p y__ n g f_m_l__ s . F_n l_n
d 's M_n_s t_r _f S_c__ l A_f_f__ r_s _n d H__ l_t h
_x p_l__ n_d w_h y t h_ c__ n_t r_y _s _n t_r_d_c_n g t
h_ n_w r_l_s . S_h_ s__ d : " Th_ m_d_l g__ r_n
t__ s t h_ c_h_l d _p_l_c_ _t t h_ c_n t_r_ _f f_m_l y
b_n_f_t s , _n d _t p_r_m_t_s w_l l b__ n g _n d g_n
d_r _q__ l_t y . " I t w_l l _l_s_ h_l p t_ _n c_r__ s_
t h_ c__ n_t r_y 's d_c_l_n_n g b_r_t h r_t_ . Th_ n_m
b_r _f b_b__ s b_r n _n F_n l_n d h_s d_r_p_p_d
f_r t h_ p_s t n_n_ y__ r_s . L_s t y__ r , F_n l_n d
h_d t h_ l_w_s t n_m b_r _f b_b__ s b_r n _n t h_
c__ n_t r_y s_n c_ 1868 . F_n l_n d 's n__ g_h_b__ r
S_w_d_n h_s t h_ m_s t g_n_r__ s l__ v_ p_l_c y , _f
f_r_n g 240 d_y s p_r p_r_n t . Th_ U S A h_s
n_ n_t__ n_l p__ d l__ v_ f_r m_t h_r s _r f_t h_r s
.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

finland is giving new parents more time to spend with their babies the finnish government has decided to give mothers and fathers seven months of parental leave this means finland will almost double the amount of its maternity leave and paternity leave the new family leave policy will give 164 days to each parent this is about seven months parents can also transfer up to 69 of their own days to their partner this means it is possible for one parent to take nine months of parental leave for single parents finland is giving all 328 days to the mother or father finlands current parental leave gives four months for maternity leave and two months for fathers

finlands government said the new rules were necessary to help young families finlands minister of social affairs and health explained why the country is introducing the new rules she said the model guarantees the child a place at the centre of family benefits and it promotes wellbeing and gender equality it will also help to increase the countrys declining birth rate the number of babies born in finland has dropped for the past nine years last year finland had the lowest number of babies born in the country since 1868 finlands neighbour sweden has the most generous leave policy offering 240 days per parent the usa has no national paid leave for mothers or fathers

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Finland is giving new parents more time to spend with their babies. The Finnish government has decided to give mothers and fathers seven months of parental leave. This means Finland will almost double the amount of its maternity leave and paternity leave. The new Family Leave Policy will give 164 days to each parent. This is about seven months. Parents can also transfer up to 69 of their own days to their partner. This means it is possible for one parent to take nine months of parental leave. For single parents, Finland is giving all 328 days to the mother or father. Finland's current parental leave gives four months for maternity leave, and two months for fathers. Finland's government said the new rules were necessary to help young families. Finland's Minister of Social Affairs and Health explained why the country is introducing the new rules. She said: "The model guarantees the child a place at the centre of family benefits, and it promotes well-being and gender equality." It will also help to increase the country's declining birth rate. The number of babies born in Finland has dropped for the past nine years. Last year, Finland had the lowest number of babies born in the country since 1868. Finland's neighbour Sweden has the most generous leave policy, offering 240 days per parent. The USA has no national paid leave for mothers or fathers.

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. PARENTAL LEAVE: Make a poster about parental leave. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. ONE YEAR: Write a magazine article about companies having to give companies one year off to look after their babies. 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 parental leave. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Their babies
2. Parental leave
3. 164 days
4. 69
5. Single parents
6. Young families
7. Gender equality
8. The birth rate
9. 1868
10. None

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. More time to spend with their babies.
2. Almost double the amount of its maternity leave.
3. Transfer up to 69 of their own days.
4. Possible for one parent to take nine months.
5. Finland's current parental leave gives four months.
6. New rules were necessary to help young families.
7. Why the country is introducing the new rules.
8. Help to increase the country's declining birth rate.
9. Finland had the lowest number of babies born.
10. Sweden has the most generous leave policy.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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