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Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

Level 6 – 22nd April 2024

UK leader cracks down on 'sick note culture'

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https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240422-sick-note-culture.html

Contents

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

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THE ARTICLE

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has announced plans to crack down on what he has labelled Britain's "sick note culture". The leader believes there are too many people in the UK claiming welfare benefits because of mental health issues. He said welfare payments were a drain on the economy, and the number of people not working was creating labour shortages. The number of sick notes issued by doctors has risen sharply since the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. The most common diagnoses being given by doctors are related to mental health and behavioural disorders. Sunak said: "We need to change the sick note culture, so the default becomes what work you can do not what you can't."

Mr Sunak has emphasised the need to get people back into employment. He said: "We need to be more ambitious about helping people back to work, and more honest about the risk of over-medicalising the everyday challenges and worries of life." He added: "Half of people becoming inactive over the last year cited depression and anxiety." Opponents of Sunak's plans say his government caused the current crisis. The mental health charity Mind said: "The truth is that…services are at breaking point following years of underinvestment." The opposition Labour party called Sunak's plans, "another front for their culture wars". It said the government was "tone deaf, shameless and irresponsible".

WARM-UPS

1. BEING SICK: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about being sick. 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?

plans / crack down / sick note / culture / drain / coronavirus / pandemic / disorders / employment / ambitious / honest / challenges / anxiety / breaking point / culture wars

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

3. EXERCISE: Students A **strongly** believe all companies should have exercise classes to keep staff healthier; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. BEING OFF WORK: Is it OK to be off work for the things in the table? Why (not)? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	OK	Why (Not)?
Mental health		
Overworking		
Contagious illness		
Plumbing emergency		
Child's graduation		
No train		

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

6. ABSENCE FROM WORK: Rank these with your partner. Put the best reasons to take a day off work at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Too stressed
- Contagious illness
- Back injury
- Hospital appointment
- Headache
- Vomiting
- Fever
- No sleep

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

1.	crack down on	a.	A medical condition that affects the normal functioning of the body or mind.
2.	labelled	b.	Gave something or someone a name or put them into a category.
3.	welfare	c.	A thing that uses up a particular resource.
4.	drain	d.	To take strong action against something or someone that is not following the rules or behaving properly.
5.	diagnoses	e.	The standard or usual option when nothing else is chosen or specified.
6.	disorder	f.	The support and assistance provided to people in need, especially by the government.
7.	default	g.	The identification of diseases or problems, especially by a doctor or expert.

Paragraph 2

8.	ambitious	h.	The moment when someone or something can no longer endure pressure or stress.
9.	cited	i.	A feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease about something with an uncertain outcome.
10.	anxiety	j.	An appearance or form of behaviour a person uses to hide their genuine feelings.
11.	breaking point	k.	Having a strong desire to achieve something or to succeed, often by working hard.
12.	opposition	l.	When something is mentioned or referred to as evidence or support for an argument or claim.
13.	front (noun)	m.	Being insensitive to the feelings or opinions of others.
14.	tone deaf	n.	People or groups who disagree with or resist something; the main political party not in power.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

1.   The UK leader said welfare payments were a boost to the economy.   **T / F**
2.   The number of sick notes issued in the UK rose after coronavirus.   **T / F**
3.   Rishi Sunak said sick notes needed a change of format.   **T / F**
4.   The default in the UK will be based on what people cannot do.   **T / F**
5.   Rishi Sunak said people needed to be more ambitious.   **T / F**
6.   Rishi Sunak said people were "over-medicalising" everyday worries.   **T / F**
7.   Opponents of Sunak's plans blame his government for the crisis.   **T / F**
8.   A charity said Sunak's plans were part of his culture wars.   **T / F**

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

1. crack down on	a. conditions
2. drain	b. opinions
3. diagnoses	c. reckless
4. disorders	d. standard
5. default	e. aspiring
6. emphasised	f. put an end to
7. ambitious	g. worry
8. anxiety	h. battlefield
9. front	i. burden
10. irresponsible	j. highlighted

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

1. people in the UK claiming	a. wars
2. welfare payments were a drain	b. breaking point
3. The most common diagnoses	c. work you can do
4. related to mental health and	d. back into employment
5. the default becomes what	e. welfare benefits
6. emphasised the need to get people	f. being given by doctors
7. depression and	g. deaf
8. services are at	h. behavioural disorders
9. another front for their culture	i. anxiety
10. It said the government was tone	j. on the economy

GAP FILL

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has announced plans to (1) _____ down on what he has (2) _____ Britain's "sick note culture". The leader believes there are too many people in the UK claiming (3) _____ benefits because of mental health issues. He said welfare payments were a (4) _____ on the economy, and the number of people not working was creating labour shortages. The number of sick notes issued by doctors has risen (5) _____ since the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. The most common (6) _____ being given by doctors are (7) _____ to mental health and behavioural disorders. Sunak said: "We need to change the sick note culture, so the (8) _____ becomes what work you can do not what you can't."

labelled

drain

default

diagnoses

related

welfare

crack

sharply

Mr Sunak has emphasised the need to get people back into (9) _____. He said: "We need to be more (10) _____ about helping people back to work, and more honest about the risk of over-medicalising the everyday (11) _____ and worries of life." He added: "Half of people becoming inactive over the last year (12) _____ depression and anxiety." Opponents of Sunak's plans say his government caused the current (13) _____. The mental health charity Mind said: "The truth is that…services are at (14) _____ point following years of underinvestment." The opposition Labour party called Sunak's plans, "another (15) _____ for their culture wars". It said the government was "(16) _____ deaf, shameless and irresponsible".

cited

tone

employment

crisis

challenges

front

ambitious

breaking

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

1) British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has announced plans _____
   a. to crack on
   b. to crack up
   c. to crack down
   d. to crack over

2) The leader believes there are too many people in the UK _____
   a. claiming welfare benefit
   b. claiming welfare beneficial
   c. claiming welfare benefits
   d. claiming welfare beneficiary

3) He said welfare payments _____
   a. were a drain
   b. were a grain
   c. were a brain
   d. were refrain

4) The number of sick notes issued by doctors _____
   a. has arisen sharply
   b. has risen sharply
   c. has rising sharply
   d. has riven sharply

5) diagnoses being given by doctors are related to mental health _____
   a. and behavioural disorder
   b. and behavioural misorders
   c. and behavioural this orders
   d. and behavioural disorders

6) honest about the risk of over-medicalising the everyday challenges _____
   a. and worries off life
   b. and worries oft life
   c. and worries of life
   d. and worries if life

7) Half of people becoming inactive over the last year cited _____
   a. depression and anxious
   b. depression and anxiety
   c. depression end anxiety
   d. depressive and anxiety

8) The mental health charity Mind said the truth is that services are _____
   a. at break-in point
   b. at broken point
   c. at breaking point
   d. at braying point

9) The opposition Labour party called Sunak's plans another front for _____
   a. their cultured wars
   b. their cultures wars
   c. their acculture wars
   d. their culture wars

10) It said the government was tone deaf, _____
   a. shameless and irresponsibility
   b. shamed less and irresponsible
   c. blamed less and irresponsible
   d. shameless and irresponsible

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has announced (1) _____

down on what (2) _____ Britain's "sick note culture". The

leader believes there are too many people in the UK claiming

(3) _____ of mental health issues. He said welfare

payments were a drain on the economy, and the number of people not

working was creating labour shortages. The (4) _____

notes issued by doctors has risen sharply since the coronavirus pandemic in

2020. The most common diagnoses being given by doctors

(5) _____ mental health and behavioural disorders. Sunak

said: "We need to change the sick note culture, so the default becomes

(6) _____ can do not what you can't."

Mr Sunak has emphasised the need to get people

(7) _____. He said: "We need to be more ambitious about

helping people back to work, and more honest about the risk of over-

medicalising the everyday (8) _____ of life." He added:

"Half of people becoming (9) _____ last year cited

depression and anxiety." Opponents of Sunak's plans say his government

(10) _____ crisis. The mental health charity Mind said:

"The truth is that…services are at (11) _____ years of

underinvestment." The opposition Labour party called Sunak's plans,

"another front for their culture wars". It said the government

(12) _____, shameless and irresponsible".

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What did Rushi Sunak say people were claiming welfare benefits for?

2. What did Rishi Sunak say was a drain on the economy?

3. What does people not working create?

4. What caused a sharp rise in the issuance of sick notes in the UK?

5. What are the most common diagnoses on doctors' sick notes?

6. What does Mr Sunak want people to get back into?

7. What did Mr Sunak say people are over-medicalising?

8. Who did the government's opponents blame for the current crisis?

9. What did a charity say about services?

10. Who said the UK government was tone deaf?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

1) What did Rushi Sunak say people were claiming welfare benefits for?
a) food and heating
b) to support families
c) mental health issues
d) they are very poor

2) What did Rishi Sunak say was a drain on the economy?
a) welfare payments
b) very heavy rain
c) Brexit
d) the opposition

3) What does people not working create?
a) higher taxes
b) inflation
c) a lack of skills
d) labour shortages

4) What caused a sharp rise in the issuance of sick notes in the UK?
a) the cold winter weather
b) the coronavirus pandemic
c) a computer glitch
d) a politician's words

5) What are the most common diagnoses on doctors' sick notes?
a) bad backs
b) sore throats
c) mental health and behavioural disorders
d) headaches

6) What does Mr Sunak want people to get back into?
a) a routine
b) employment
c) looking after their health
d) their office

7) What did Mr Sunak say people are over-medicalising?
a) looking at illness symptoms online
b) their thoughts
c) their body
d) the everyday challenges and worries of life

8) Who did the government's opponents blame for the current crisis?
a) the unemployed
b) the government
c) charities
d) themselves

9) What did a charity say about services?
a) They are at breaking point.
b) They are in a state of collapse.
c) More were needed.
d) It said they were superlative.

10) Who said the UK government was tone deaf?
a) a charity
b) musicians
c) a mental health worker
d) the opposition

ROLE PLAY

Role A – Stress

You think stress is the best reason to take a day off work. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their reasons aren't good enough for a day off. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these reasons (and why): contagious illness, back injury or no sleep.

Role B – Contagious Illness

You think a contagious illness is the best reason to take a day off work. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their reasons aren't good enough for a day off. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these reasons (and why): stress, back injury or no sleep.

Role C – Back Injury

You think a back injury is the best reason to take a day off work. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their reasons aren't good enough for a day off. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these reasons (and why): contagious illness, stress or no sleep.

Role D – No Sleep

You think no sleep is the best reason to take a day off work. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their reasons aren't good enough for a day off. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these reasons (and why): contagious illness, back injury or stress.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

sick	culture

- 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:

• crack	• emphasized
• claiming	• honest
• drain	• half
• sharply	• current
• common	• point
• default	• deaf

BEING SICK SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about being sick 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.

BEING SICK 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 'sick note'?

3. How much of a 'sick note culture' is there in your country?

4. What do you think of claiming welfare benefits?

5. How supportive is your government of mental health?

6. How should governments help people with mental health issues?

7. How often are you sick?

8. Would you always try to go to work even if you were sick?

9. How did coronavirus affect you?

10. What advice do you have for people with mental health issues?

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BEING SICK 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 'culture'?

13. What do you think about what you read?

14. What do you know about Rishi Sunak?

15. How can governments get people back to work?

16. What challenges do you have in your life?

17. Have you ever been at breaking point?

18. What happens during culture wars?

19. How shameless do you think the UK government is?

20. What questions would you like to ask Rishi Sunak?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has announced plans to (1) _____ down on what he has labelled Britain's "sick note culture". The leader believes there are too many people in the UK (2) _____ welfare benefits because of mental health issues. He said welfare payments were a (3) _____ on the economy, and the number of people not working was creating labour shortages. The number of sick notes issued by doctors has risen (4) _____ since the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. The most common diagnoses being given by doctors are related (5) _____ mental health and behavioural disorders. Sunak said: "We need to change the sick note culture, so the (6) _____ becomes what work you can do not what you can't."

Mr Sunak has emphasised the (7) _____ to get people back into employment. He said: "We need to be more ambitious about helping people back to work, and more (8) _____ about the risk of over-medicalising the everyday challenges and worries of life." He added: "Half of people becoming inactive over the last year (9) _____ depression and anxiety." Opponents of Sunak's plans say his government caused the current crisis. The mental health charity Mind said: "The truth is that…services are at breaking (10) _____ following years of underinvestment." The opposition Labour party called Sunak's plans, "another (11) _____ for their culture wars". It said the government was "(12) _____ deaf, shameless and irresponsible".

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

1.	(a)	crack	(b)	slack	(c)	track	(d)	flack
2.	(a)	claimant	(b)	claims	(c)	claiming	(d)	claimed
3.	(a)	sewer	(b)	plug	(c)	sink	(d)	drain
4.	(a)	shapely	(b)	sharply	(c)	shaven	(d)	bluntly
5.	(a)	on	(b)	up	(c)	of	(d)	to
6.	(a)	faulty	(b)	vault	(c)	default	(d)	vaunted
7.	(a)	nerd	(b)	need	(c)	heed	(d)	necessary
8.	(a)	honest	(b)	honesty	(c)	honestly	(d)	dishonest
9.	(a)	cited	(b)	sighted	(c)	incited	(d)	sated
10.	(a)	tip	(b)	dot	(c)	point	(d)	place
11.	(a)	back	(b)	side	(c)	bottom	(d)	front
12.	(a)	atone	(b)	tone	(c)	tune	(d)	attune

SPELLING

Paragraph 1

1. what he has <u>lbeealld</u>

2. <u>erfaelw</u> benefits

3. labour <u>erosghtsa</u>

4. The most common <u>oesidsgna</u>

5. <u>lvairebohau</u> disorders

6. the <u>edflaut</u> becomes what work you can do

Paragraph 2

7. <u>imhassedep</u> the need to get people back

8. We need to be more <u>asuiboitm</u>

9. depression and <u>nxyaeit</u>

10. following years of <u>msunnirtetndvee</u>

11. The <u>ippsoiootn</u> Labour party

12. tone deaf, <u>shamlsese</u> and irresponsible

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

(   )   on the economy, and the number of people not working was creating labour shortages. The number

(   )   Britain's "sick note culture". The leader believes there are too many people in the UK claiming welfare

(   )   Mr Sunak has emphasised the need to get people back into employment. He said: "We need to be more

(   )   caused the current crisis. The mental health charity Mind said: "The truth is that…services are at breaking

(   )   of over-medicalising the everyday challenges and worries of life." He added: "Half of people becoming

(   )   diagnoses being given by doctors are related to mental health and behavioural disorders. Sunak said: "We need to

(   )   inactive over the last year cited depression and anxiety." Opponents of Sunak's plans say his government

(   )   ambitious about helping people back to work, and more honest about the risk

(   )   of sick notes issued by doctors has risen sharply since the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. The most common

(   )   benefits because of mental health issues. He said welfare payments were a drain

(   )   culture wars". It said the government was "tone deaf, shameless and irresponsible".

(**1**)   British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has announced plans to crack down on what he has labelled

(   )   point following years of underinvestment." The opposition Labour party called Sunak's plans, "another front for their

(   )   change the sick note culture, so the default becomes what work you can do not what you can't."

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

1. crack   down   sick   culture   .   on   Plans   to   note

2. too   believes   people   .   there   The   many   leader   are

3. welfare   mental   benefits   because   Claiming   issues   .   of   health

4. Welfare   drain   a   economy   .   were   payments   the   on

5. you   default   can   what   The   becomes   work   do   .

6. need   back   to   people   into   The   get   employment   .

7. about   ambitious   More   to   helping   people   back   work   .

8. life   .   everyday   the   worries   challenges   and   of   Over-medicalising

9. the   of   people   over   year   .   becoming   inactive   Half

10. wars   .   another   their   culture   front   for   It's

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has announced plans to *track / crack* down on what he has libelled/ labelled Britain's "sick note culture". The leader *believes / beliefs* there are too many people in the UK *claimant / claiming* welfare benefits because of mental health issues. He said welfare payments were a drain *on / in* the economy, and the number of people not working was creating labour *shortages / shortage*. The number of sick notes issued by doctors has *risen / arisen* sharply since the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. The most *commonly / common* diagnoses being given by doctors are related *of / to* mental health and behavioural disorders. Sunak said: "We need to change the sick note culture, so the *vault / default* becomes what work you can do not what you can't."

Mr Sunak has emphasised the need to get people back *as to / into* employment. He said: "We need to be more *ambitious / ambitions* about helping people back to work, and more *honest / honestly* about the risk of over-medicalising the everyday challenges and *worried / worries* of life." He added: "Half of people becoming inactive over the last year *sighted / cited* depression and anxiety." Opponents of Sunak's plans say his government caused the current *critics / crisis*. The mental health charity Mind said: "The *truth / true* is that…services are at breaking *dot / point* following years of underinvestment." The *opposition / opposite* Labour party called Sunak's plans, "another front for their culture wars". It said the government was "*tune / tone* deaf, shameless and irresponsible".

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

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

From   https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240422-sick-note-culture.html

Br_t_sh   Pr_m_   M_n_st_r   R_sh_   S_n_k   h_s   _nn__nc_d pl_ns   t_   cr_ck   d_wn   _n   wh_t   h_   h_s   l_b_ll_d   Br_t__n's "s_ck   n_t_   c_lt_r_".   Th_   l__d_r   b_l__v_s   th_r_   _r_   t__ m_ny   p__pl_   _n   th_   _K   cl__m_ng   w_lf_r_   b_n_f_ts b_c__s_   _f   m_nt_l   h__lth   _ss__s.   H_   s__d   w_lf_r_ p_ym_nts   w_r_   _   dr__n   _n   th_   _c_n_my,   _nd   th_ n_mb_r   _f   p__pl_   n_t   w_rk_ng   w_s   cr__t_ng   l_b__r sh_rt_g_s.   Th_   n_mb_r   _f   s_ck   n_t_s   _ss__d   by   d_ct_rs h_s   r_s_n   sh_rply   s_nc_   th_   c_r_n_v_r_s   p_nd_m_c   _n 2020.   Th_   m_st   c_mm_n   d__gn_s_s   b__ng   g_v_n   by d_ct_rs   _r_   r_l_t_d   t_   m_nt_l   h__lth   _nd   b_h_v___r_l d_s_rd_rs.   S_n_k   s__d: "W_   n__d   t_   ch_ng_   th_   s_ck n_t_   c_lt_r_,   s_   th_   d_f__lt   b_c_m_s   wh_t   w_rk   y__ c_n   d_   n_t   wh_t   y__   c_n't."

Mr   S_n_k   h_s   _mph_s_s_d   th_   n__d   t_   g_t   p__pl_ b_ck   _nt_   _mpl_ym_nt.   H_   s__d: "W_   n__d   t_   b_   m_r_ _mb_t___s   _b__t   h_lp_ng   p__pl_   b_ck   t_   w_rk,   _nd m_r_   h_n_st   _b__t   th_   r_sk   _f   _v_r-m_d_c_l_s_ng   th_ _v_ryd_y   ch_ll_ng_s   _nd   w_rr__s   _f   l_f_."   H_   _dd_d: "H_lf   _f   p__pl_   b_c_m_ng   _n_ct_v_   _v_r   th_   l_st   y__r c_t_d   d_pr_ss__n   _nd   _nx__ty."   _pp_n_nts   _f   S_n_k's pl_ns   s_y   h_s   g_v_rnm_nt   c__s_d   th_   c_rr_nt   cr_s_s. Th_   m_nt_l   h__lth   ch_r_ty   M_nd   s__d: "Th_   tr_th   _s th_t…s_rv_c_s   _r_   _t   br__k_ng   p__nt   f_ll_w_ng   y__rs   _f _nd_r_nv_stm_nt."   Th_   _pp_s_t__n   L_b__r   p_rty   c_ll_d S_n_k's   pl_ns,   "_n_th_r   fr_nt   f_r   th__r   c_lt_r_   w_rs". _t   s__d   th_   g_v_rnm_nt   w_s   "t_n_   d__f,   sh_m_l_ss   _nd _rr_sp_ns_bl_".

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

british prime minister rishi sunak has announced plans to crack down on what he has labelled britains sick note culture the leader believes there are too many people in the uk claiming welfare benefits because of mental health issues he said welfare payments were a drain on the economy and the number of people not working was creating labour shortages the number of sick notes issued by doctors has risen sharply since the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 the most common diagnoses being given by doctors are related to mental health and behavioural disorders sunak said we need to change the sick note culture so the default becomes what work you can do not what you cant

mr sunak has emphasised the need to get people back into employment he said we need to be more ambitious about helping people back to work and more honest about the risk of overmedicalising the everyday challenges and worries of life he added half of people becoming inactive over the last year cited depression and anxiety opponents of sunaks plans say his government caused the current crisis the mental health charity mind said the truth is thatservices are at breaking point following years of underinvestment the opposition labour party called sunaks plans another front for their culture wars it said the government was tone deaf shameless and irresponsible

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

BritishPrimeMinisterRishiSunakhasannouncedplanstocrackdownon

whathehaslabelledBritain's"sicknoteculture".Theleaderbelievesther

earetoomanypeopleintheUKclaimingwelfarebenefitsbecauseofment

alhealthissues.Hesaidwelfarepaymentswereadrainontheeconomy,a

ndthenumberofpeoplenotworkingwascreatinglabourshortages.The

numberofsicknotesissuedbydoctorshasrisensharplysincethecorona

viruspandemicin2020.Themostcommondiagnosesbeinggivenbydoc

torsarerelatedtomentalhealthandbehaviouraldisorders.Sunaksaid:

"Weneedtochangethesicknoteculture,sothedefaultbecomeswhatwo

rkyoucandonotwhatyoucan't."MrSunakhasemphasisedtheneedtoge

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LabourpartycalledSunak'splans,"anotherfrontfortheirculturewars".

Itsaidthegovernmentwas"tonedeaf,shamelessandirresponsible".

FREE WRITING

Write about **being sick** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

ACADEMIC WRITING

From   https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240422-sick-note-culture.html

Governments need to spend much more money on mental health. Discuss.

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. BEING SICK: Make a poster about being sick. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. DOCTORS AT WORK: Write a magazine article about all companies having an on-site doctor. 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 being sick. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to stay healthy. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Mental health issues
2. Welfare payments
3. Labour shortages
4. The coronavirus pandemic
5. Mental health and behavioural disorders
6. Employment
7. The everyday challenges and worries of life
8. the government
9. They are at breaking point.
10. The opposition

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Plans to crack down on sick note culture.
2. The leader believes there are too many people.
3. Claiming welfare benefits because of mental health issues.
4. Welfare payments were a drain on the economy.
5. The default becomes what work you can do.
6. The need to get people back into employment.
7. More ambitious about helping people back to work.
8. Over-medicalising the everyday challenges and worries of life.
9. Half of people becoming inactive over the year.
10. It's another front for their culture wars.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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