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## Level 6

### Mechanic works 75 years to break record

21st July, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170721-mechanic.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/1707/170721-mechanic.html>

An airline worker in the USA has broken the world record for the world's longest-serving airline mechanic. Azriel Blackman, 91, started work in 1942 at the age of 16. He has now been working for 75 years. His starting salary was 50 cents an hour. The nonagenarian still works five days a week. He clocks on before 5am at an American Airlines hangar at JFK International Airport in New York. His age means his employers prevent him from doing certain tasks for safety reasons. He is not allowed to scale ladders, drive on the runways and surrounding areas, or use certain tools. He is responsible for assessing the maintenance needs of the airplanes that have been parked in the hangars overnight.

Mr Blackman's record has been recognized for his dedication to his job. His employer dedicated a plane in his honor at a ceremony at JFK. His signature was painted in giant letters on the front of one of the airline's Boeing 777 aircraft. Blackman said: "I'm just honored to be here. I'm proud to be a mechanic." The 91-year-old received a standing ovation from his fellow colleagues and managers at the ceremony. Reporters asked him about the secret behind his record. He said: "When you like what you do, it's not work." When asked about retirement, he said: "That's not up to me. That's up to the man upstairs. The first thing I do when I get up in the morning is I say 'thank you for another day'."

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-40659421>  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/17/nyregion/for-airline-mechanic-91-the-sky-is-one-of-many-limits.html>  
<https://www.dallasnews.com/business/american-airlines/2017/07/18/75-years-job-american-airlines-mechanic-still-showingup-early-work>

# WARM-UPS

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

airline worker / world record / mechanic / starting salary / age / employers / safety / dedication / ceremony / signature / standing ovation / colleagues / secret / retirement

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

**3. 75:** Students A **strongly** believe people should keep working at least until the age of 75; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. NONAGENARIANS:** What can people in their 90s do? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Good things	Bad things
Drive a car		
Be a pilot		
Become a parent		
Run a marathon		
Be a rock star		
Be leader of a country		

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

**6. JOBS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best jobs for a 90-year-old at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- taxi driver
- tour guide
- gardener
- journalist
- chef
- teacher
- musician
- doctor

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170721-mechanic.html>

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

- a. The mechanic started work when he was 13. **T / F**
- b. The mechanic's starting salary was 50 cents a week. **T / F**
- c. The mechanic starts work at five in the morning. **T / F**
- d. The mechanic has to climb ladders to clean the airplane windows. **T / F**
- e. The mechanic signed the front of an airplane. **T / F**
- f. The mechanic's name was painted on a Boeing 777. **T / F**
- g. The mechanic's colleagues stood up and applauded him. **T / F**
- h. The mechanic doesn't know when he will retire. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>servicing</b>  | a. evaluating    |
| 2. <b>salary</b>     | b. magic formula |
| 3. <b>prevent</b>    | c. loyalty       |
| 4. <b>scale</b>      | d. pay           |
| 5. <b>assessing</b>  | e. applause      |
| 6. <b>dedication</b> | f. working       |
| 7. <b>ovation</b>    | g. climb up      |
| 8. <b>colleagues</b> | h. an additional |
| 9. <b>secret</b>     | i. stop          |
| 10. <b>another</b>   | j. coworkers     |

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

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. the world's longest-                | a. to his job                 |
| 2. His starting salary                 | b. behind his record          |
| 3. scale                               | c. maintenance needs          |
| 4. He is responsible for assessing the | d. in giant letters           |
| 5. airplanes that have been parked in  | e. was 50 cents an hour       |
| 6. recognized for his dedication       | f. ladders                    |
| 7. His signature was painted           | g. upstairs                   |
| 8. received a standing                 | h. the hangars overnight      |
| 9. the secret                          | i. ovation                    |
| 10. That's up to the man               | j. servicing airline mechanic |

# GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170721-mechanic.html>

An airline worker in the USA has (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the world record for the world's longest-(2) \_\_\_\_\_ airline mechanic. Azriel Blackman, 91, started work in 1942 at the age of 16. He has now been working for 75 years. His starting (3) \_\_\_\_\_ was 50 cents an hour. The nonagenarian still works five days a week. He (4) \_\_\_\_\_ on before 5am at an American Airlines hangar at JFK International Airport in New York. His age means his employers (5) \_\_\_\_\_ him from doing certain tasks for safety (6) \_\_\_\_\_. He is not allowed to scale ladders, drive on the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ and surrounding areas, or use (8) \_\_\_\_\_ tools. He is responsible for assessing the maintenance needs of the airplanes that have been parked in the hangars overnight.

*clocks*  
*certain*  
*serving*  
*runways*  
*broken*  
*prevent*  
*salary*  
*reasons*

Mr Blackman's record has been recognized for his (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to his job. His employer dedicated a plane in his honor at a (10) \_\_\_\_\_ at JFK. His signature was painted in giant letters on the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of one of the airline's Boeing 777 aircraft. Blackman said: "I'm just honored to be here. I'm (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to be a mechanic." The 91-year-old received a standing (13) \_\_\_\_\_ from his fellow colleagues and managers at the ceremony. Reporters asked him about the (14) \_\_\_\_\_ behind his record. He said: "When you like what you do, it's not work." When asked about (15) \_\_\_\_\_, he said: "That's not up to me. That's up to the man (16) \_\_\_\_\_. The first thing I do when I get up in the morning is I say 'thank you for another day'."

*front*  
*secret*  
*dedication*  
*upstairs*  
*ceremony*  
*ovation*  
*retirement*  
*proud*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170721-mechanic.html>

- 1) broken the world record for the world's longest-serving \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. airline mechanical
  - b. airline mechanics
  - c. airline mechanic
  - d. airline mechanically
- 2) He has now been working for 75 years. His starting salary \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. was 50 cents than hour
  - b. was 50 cents then hour
  - c. was 50 cents an hour
  - d. was 50 cents and hour
- 3) prevent him from doing certain tasks for safety reasons. He is not \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. allow it to scale ladders
  - b. allowed to scaled ladders
  - c. allowed to scale ladders
  - d. allowed to scale ladder
- 4) drive on the runways and surrounding areas, or \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. use certainly tools
  - b. use certain tools
  - c. uses certainly tools
  - d. used certain tools
- 5) the maintenance needs of the airplanes that have been parked in the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. hangers overnight
  - b. hungers overnight
  - c. hangars overnight
  - d. hinges overnight
- 6) Mr Blackman's record has been recognized for his \_\_\_\_\_ job
  - a. dedicated to his
  - b. dedicating to his
  - c. dedicating to his
  - d. dedication to his
- 7) His employer dedicated a plane in his honor \_\_\_\_\_ at JFK
  - a. at a ceremony
  - b. at the ceremony
  - c. as a ceremony
  - d. as the ceremony
- 8) The 91-year-old received a standing ovation from his \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. fellows colleague
  - b. fellow colleague
  - c. fellow colleagues
  - d. fellows colleagues
- 9) when asked about retirement, he said: "That's not up to me. That's up to \_\_\_\_\_."
  - a. their men upstairs
  - b. there man upstairs
  - c. the man upstairs
  - d. the men upstairs
- 10) The first thing I do when I get up in the morning is I say 'thank you \_\_\_\_\_'."
  - a. for the other day
  - b. for and other day
  - c. for others day
  - d. for another day

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170721-mechanic.html>

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ the USA has broken the world record for the world's longest-serving airline mechanic. Azriel Blackman, 91, started (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the age of 16. He has now been working for 75 years. His starting salary was (3) \_\_\_\_\_. The nonagenarian still works five days a week. He clocks on before 5am at an American Airlines hangar at JFK International Airport in New York. His age means his employers prevent him from (4) \_\_\_\_\_ for safety reasons. He is not allowed to scale ladders, drive on the runways and surrounding (5) \_\_\_\_\_ tools. He is responsible for assessing the maintenance needs of the airplanes that have been parked in the (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Mr Blackman's record has been recognized for his dedication to his job. His employer (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in his honor at a ceremony at JFK. His signature (8) \_\_\_\_\_ giant letters on the front of one of the airline's Boeing 777 aircraft. Blackman said: "I'm just honored to be here. I'm proud (9) \_\_\_\_\_." The 91-year-old received a standing ovation from his fellow colleagues and (10) \_\_\_\_\_ ceremony. Reporters asked him about the secret behind his record. He said: "When you (11) \_\_\_\_\_ do, it's not work." When asked about retirement, he said: "That's not up to me. That's up to the man upstairs. The first thing I do (12) \_\_\_\_\_ in the morning is I say 'thank you for another day'."

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170721-mechanic.html>

1. How old is the airline mechanic?
2. What was the starting salary of the airline mechanic?
3. What time does the airline mechanic start work?
4. Why can't the mechanic do certain tasks?
5. Where are the airplanes the mechanic assesses parked overnight?
6. What has Mr Blackman been recognized for?
7. What kind of aircraft was the mechanic's signature painted on?
8. What did the mechanic receive from his colleagues?
9. What did reporters ask the mechanic about?
10. Who did the mechanic say would decide his retirement?



# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170721-mechanic.html>

- 1) How old is the airline mechanic?
  - a) 81
  - b) 91
  - c) 86
  - d) 96
- 2) What was the starting salary of the airline mechanic?
  - a) 50 cents a month
  - b) 50 cents a week
  - c) 50 cents a day
  - d) 50 cents an hour
- 3) What time does the airline mechanic start work?
  - a) 5am
  - b) 5.30am
  - c) 6am
  - d) 6.30am
- 4) Why can't the mechanic do certain tasks?
  - a) he doesn't have the skills to do so
  - b) he's not qualified
  - c) for safety reasons
  - d) He's too young
- 5) Where are the airplanes the mechanic assesses parked overnight?
  - a) in a car park
  - b) in hangars
  - c) on the runway
  - d) on a road
- 6) What has Mr Blackman been recognized for?
  - a) his dedication
  - b) his age
  - c) his knowledge
  - d) his flying skills
- 7) What kind of aircraft was the mechanic's signature painted on?
  - a) an Aeroflot
  - b) an Airbus A380
  - c) a Boeing 777
  - d) a Cessna
- 8) What did the mechanic receive from his colleagues?
  - a) a standing ovation
  - b) a watch
  - c) a model aircraft
  - d) a round-the-world air ticket
- 9) What did reporters ask the mechanic about?
  - a) his secret
  - b) his age
  - c) his ambitions
  - d) his family
- 10) Who did the mechanic say would decide his retirement?
  - a) no one
  - b) his wife
  - c) his boss
  - d) the man upstairs

# ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170721-mechanic.html>

## **Role A – Taxi Driver**

You think a taxi driver is the best job for a 90-year-old. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these of these (and why): a tour guide, a teacher or a doctor.

## **Role B – Tour Guide**

You think a tour guide is the best job for a 90-year-old. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these of these (and why): a taxi driver, a teacher or a doctor.

## **Role C – Teacher**

You think a teacher is the best job for a 90-year-old. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these of these (and why): a tour guide, a taxi driver or a doctor.

## **Role D – Doctor**

You think a doctor is the best job for a 90-year-old. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these of these (and why): a tour guide, a teacher or a taxi driver.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170721-mechanic.html>

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

<b>break</b>	<b>record</b>
--------------	---------------

- 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"><li>• serving</li><li>• 16</li><li>• 50</li><li>• prevent</li><li>• drive</li><li>• overnight</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• dedication</li><li>• giant</li><li>• proud</li><li>• standing</li><li>• secret</li><li>• another</li></ul>
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# WORKING AGE SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170721-mechanic.html>

Write five GOOD questions about working age 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 AGE 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 'world'?
3. How did this article make you feel?
4. What do you think of Mr Blackman?
5. At what age would you like to retire?
6. What would it be like to be an airline mechanic?
7. How might Mr Blackman's job have changed over the years?
8. Should people in their nineties be working?
9. What things should Mr Blackman not be allowed to do?
10. How skilled do you think Mr Blackman is?

*Mechanic works 75 years to break record – 21st July, 2017*  
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## WORKING AGE 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 'record'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of Mr Blackman's signature being painted on a plane?
15. What do you think of American Airlines for recognizing Mr Blackman?
16. What is your favorite airline and why?
17. What is the best age to retire?
18. What would you like to do in your retirement?
19. Who is 'the man upstairs'?
20. What questions would you like to ask Mr Blackman?

# 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/1707/170721-mechanic.html>

An airline worker in the USA has (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the world record for the world's longest-serving airline mechanic. Azriel Blackman, 91, started work in 1942 (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the age of 16. He has now been working for 75 years. His starting salary was 50 cents an hour. The nonagenarian still works five days (3) \_\_\_\_\_ week. He clocks on before 5am at an American Airlines hangar at JFK International Airport in New York. His age (4) \_\_\_\_\_ his employers prevent him from doing certain tasks for safety reasons. He is not allowed to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ ladders, drive on the runways and surrounding areas, or use certain tools. He is responsible (6) \_\_\_\_\_ assessing the maintenance needs of the airplanes that have been parked in the hangars overnight.

Mr Blackman's record has been recognized for his dedication (7) \_\_\_\_\_ his job. His employer dedicated a plane in his honor at a ceremony at JFK. His signature was painted in giant letters (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the front of one of the airline's Boeing 777 aircraft. Blackman said: "I'm just honored to be here. I'm proud to (9) \_\_\_\_\_ a mechanic." The 91-year-old received a standing ovation from his fellow colleagues and managers at the ceremony. Reporters asked him about the secret (10) \_\_\_\_\_ his record. He said: "When you like what you do, it's not work." (11) \_\_\_\_\_ asked about retirement, he said: "That's not up to me. That's up to the man (12) \_\_\_\_\_ . The first thing I do when I get up in the morning is I say 'thank you for another day'."

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

- |     |             |              |               |            |
|-----|-------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
| 1.  | (a) broken  | (b) breaking | (c) broke     | (d) braked |
| 2.  | (a) to      | (b) by       | (c) at        | (d) up     |
| 3.  | (a) for     | (b) of       | (c) a         | (d) the    |
| 4.  | (a) really  | (b) then     | (c) so        | (d) means  |
| 5.  | (a) scale   | (b) stale    | (c) shale     | (d) sale   |
| 6.  | (a) free    | (b) for      | (c) of        | (d) from   |
| 7.  | (a) two     | (b) through  | (c) too       | (d) to     |
| 8.  | (a) to      | (b) on       | (c) of        | (d) at     |
| 9.  | (a) being   | (b) been     | (c) be        | (d) bear   |
| 10. | (a) above   | (b) sideways | (c) front     | (d) behind |
| 11. | (a) Which   | (b) What     | (c) Why       | (d) When   |
| 12. | (a) ladders | (b) upstairs | (c) important | (d) me     |

# SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170721-mechanic.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. the world's longest-gesnrvi airline mechanic
2. The aeinagnanno still works five days a week
3. prevent him from doing ncatrei tasks
4. the runways and uursngonid areas
5. responsible for assessing the eemnanintca needs
6. airplanes that have been parked in the rnsgha

## Paragraph 2

7. his tniadodice to his job
8. at a eryeconm at JFK
9. His ugateirsn was painted in giant letters
10. The 91-year-old received a standing iatonvo
11. his fellow oelalcgues
12. When asked about ertnretmei, he said...



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170721-mechanic.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) a plane in his honor at a ceremony at JFK. His signature was painted in giant
- ( ) be here. I'm proud to be a mechanic." The 91-year-old received a standing ovation from his fellow
- ( ) letters on the front of one of the airline's Boeing 777 aircraft. Blackman said: "I'm just honored to
- ( ) Mr Blackman's record has been recognized for his dedication to his job. His employer dedicated
- ( ) for 75 years. His starting salary was 50 cents an hour. The nonagenarian still works five days
- ( ) colleagues and managers at the ceremony. Reporters asked him about the secret behind his
- ( **1** ) An airline worker in the USA has broken the world record for the world's longest-serving airline
- ( ) assessing the maintenance needs of the airplanes that have been parked in the hangars overnight.
- ( ) to me. That's up to the man upstairs. The first thing I do when I get up in the morning is I say 'thank you for another day'."
- ( ) ladders, drive on the runways and surrounding areas, or use certain tools. He is responsible for
- ( ) means his employers prevent him from doing certain tasks for safety reasons. He is not allowed to scale
- ( ) a week. He clocks on before 5am at an American Airlines hangar at JFK International Airport in New York. His age
- ( ) record. He said: "When you like what you do, it's not work." When asked about retirement, he said: "That's not up
- ( ) mechanic. Azriel Blackman, 91, started work in 1942 at the age of 16. He has now been working

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170721-mechanic.html>

1. world in record the An USA airline has worker broken the .
2. still nonagenarian The week a days five works .
3. doing from him prevent employers His tasks certain .
4. is He maintenance assessing responsible needs the for .
5. have hangars been overnight parked Airplanes in that the .
6. giant His was in letters signature painted .
7. On of airline's aircraft front the 777 the one Boeing .
8. He from received his a fellow standing colleagues ovation .
9. asked behind him his about record the Reporters secret .
10. I do first the when thing morning up I The in get .

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170721-mechanic.html>

An airline worker in the USA has *broken / breaking* the world record for the world's longest-serving airline *mechanical / mechanic*. Azriel Blackman, 91, started work in 1942 at the *age / old* of 16. He has now been working for 75 years. His *starting / started* salary was 50 cents an hour. The nonagenarian still works five days a week. He *clicks / clocks* on before 5am at an American Airlines *hanger / hangar* at JFK International Airport in New York. His age means his employers *prevent / preventing* him from doing certain tasks for *safety / safe* reasons. He is not allowed to scale ladders, drive on the runways and surrounding areas, or use *certain / certainly* tools. He is responsible for assessing the maintenance *needy / needs* of the airplanes that have been parked in the hangars overnight.

Mr Blackman's record has *been / being* recognized for his dedication to his job. His employer *dedication / dedicated* a plane in his honor at a *ceremony / ceremonial* at JFK. His signature was painted in giant letters on the front of *one / once* of the airline's Boeing 777 aircraft. Blackman said: "I'm just honored to be here. I'm *proudly / proud* to be a mechanic." The 91-year-old received a standing *ovation / oration* from his fellow colleagues and managers at the ceremony. Reporters asked him about the secret *back / behind* his record. He said: "When you like what you do, it's not work." When asked about *retirement / retire*, he said: "That's not up to *my / me*. That's up to the man upstairs. The first thing I do when I get up in the morning is I say 'thank you for *other / another* day'."

**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/1707/170721-mechanic.html>

\_n \_\_rl\_n\_ w\_rk\_r \_n th\_ \_S\_ h\_s br\_k\_n th\_ w\_rld  
r\_c\_rd f\_r th\_ w\_rld's l\_ng\_st-s\_rv\_ng \_\_rl\_n\_  
m\_ch\_n\_c. \_zr\_\_l Bl\_ckm\_n, 91, st\_rt\_d w\_rk \_n 1942  
\_t th\_ \_g\_ \_f 16. H\_ h\_s n\_w b\_\_n w\_rk\_ng f\_r 75  
y\_\_rs. H\_s st\_rt\_ng s\_l\_ry w\_s 50 c\_nts \_n h\_\_r. Th\_  
n\_n\_g\_n\_r\_\_n st\_ll w\_rks f\_v\_ d\_ys \_ w\_\_k. H\_ cl\_cks  
\_n b\_f\_r\_ 5\_m\_t\_n \_m\_r\_c\_n \_\_rl\_n\_s h\_ng\_r\_t JFK  
\_nt\_rn\_t\_\_n\_l \_\_rp\_rt \_n N\_w Y\_rk. H\_s \_g\_ m\_\_ns  
h\_s \_mpl\_y\_rs pr\_v\_nt h\_m fr\_m d\_\_ng c\_rt\_\_n t\_sks  
f\_r s\_f\_ty r\_\_s\_ns. H\_ \_s n\_t ll\_w\_d t\_sc\_l\_l\_dd\_rs,  
dr\_v\_\_n th\_ r\_nw\_ys \_nd s\_rr\_\_nd\_ng \_r\_\_s, \_r\_s\_  
c\_rt\_\_n t\_\_ls. H\_ \_s r\_sp\_ns bl\_f\_r \_ss\_ss\_ng th\_  
m\_\_nt\_n\_nc\_ n\_\_ds f\_th\_ \_\_rpl\_n\_s th\_t h\_v\_ b\_\_n  
p\_rk\_d \_n th\_ h\_ng\_rs \_v\_rn\_gh\_t.

Mr Bl\_ckm\_n's r\_c\_rd h\_s b\_\_n r\_c\_gn\_z\_d f\_r h\_s  
d\_d\_c\_t\_\_n t\_ h\_s j\_b. H\_s \_mpl\_y\_r d\_d\_c\_t\_d \_  
pl\_n\_ \_n h\_s h\_n\_r\_t \_c\_r\_m\_ny \_t JFK. H\_s  
s\_gn\_t\_r\_w\_s p\_\_nt\_d \_ng\_\_nt l\_ttrs \_n th\_ fr\_nt\_f  
\_n\_ \_f th\_ \_\_rl\_n\_'s B\_\_ng 777 \_\_rcr\_ft. Bl\_ckm\_n  
s\_\_d: "'m j\_st h\_n\_r\_d t\_b\_h\_r\_. 'm pr\_\_d t\_b\_\_  
m\_ch\_n\_c." Th\_ 91-y\_\_r-\_ld r\_c\_\_v\_d \_st\_ndng  
\_v\_t\_\_n fr\_m h\_s f\_ll\_w\_c\_ll\_g\_\_s \_nd m\_n\_g\_rs \_t  
th\_ c\_r\_m\_ny. R\_p\_r\_t\_rs \_sk\_d h\_m \_b\_\_t th\_ s\_cr\_t  
b\_h\_nd h\_s r\_c\_rd. H\_s \_\_d: "Wh\_n y\_\_l\_k\_ wh\_t y\_\_  
d\_, \_t's n\_t w\_rk." Wh\_n \_sk\_d \_b\_\_t r\_t\_r\_m\_nt, h\_  
s\_\_d: "Th\_t's n\_t \_p\_t\_m\_. Th\_t's \_p\_t\_ th\_ m\_n  
\_pst\_\_rs. Th\_ f\_rst th\_ng \_d\_ wh\_n \_g\_t\_p \_n th\_  
m\_rn\_ng \_s \_s\_y 'th\_nk\_y\_\_f\_r\_n\_th\_r\_d\_y'."

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170721-mechanic.html>

an airline worker in the usa has broken the world record for the world's longest-serving airline mechanic azriel blackman 91 started work in 1942 at the age of 16 he has now been working for 75 years his starting salary was 50 cents an hour the nonagenarian still works five days a week he clocks on before 5am at an american airlines hangar at jfk international airport in new york his age means his employers prevent him from doing certain tasks for safety reasons he is not allowed to scale ladders drive on the runways and surrounding areas or use certain tools he is responsible for assessing the maintenance needs of the airplanes that have been parked in the hangars overnight

mr blackman's record has been recognized for his dedication to his job his employer dedicated a plane in his honor at a ceremony at jfk his signature was painted in giant letters on the front of one of the airline's boeing 777 aircraft blackman said "i'm just honored to be here i'm proud to be a mechanic" the 91-year-old received a standing ovation from his fellow colleagues and managers at the ceremony reporters asked him about the secret behind his record he said "when you like what you do it's not work" when asked about retirement he said "that's not up to me that's up to the man upstairs the first thing i do when i get up in the morning is i say 'thank you for another day'"

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170721-mechanic.html>

An air liner worker in the USA has broken the world record for the world's longest-serving air liner mechanic. Azriel Blackman, 91, started working in 1942 at the age of 16. He has now been working for 75 years. His starting salary was 50 cents an hour. Then anagenarian still works five days a week. He clocks on before 5 am at an American Airlines hangar at JFK International Airport in New York. His age means his employers prevent him from doing certain tasks for safety reasons. He is not allowed to scale ladders, drive on the runways and surrounding areas, or use certain tools. He is responsible for assessing the maintenance needs of the air planes that have been parked in the hangar overnight. Mr Blackman's record has been recognized for his dedication to his job. His employer dedicated a plane in his honor at a ceremony at JFK. His signature was painted in giant letters on the front of one of the airline's Boeing 777 aircraft. Blackman said: "I'm just honored to be here. I'm proud to be a mechanic." The 91-year-old received a standing ovation from his fellow colleagues and managers at the ceremony. Reporters asked him about the secret behind his record. He said: "When you like what you do, it's not work." When asked about retirement, he said: "That's not up to me. That's up to the man upstairs. The first thing I do when I get up in the morning is I say 'thank you for another day'."

# FREE WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170721-mechanic.html>

Write about **working age** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner’s paper.

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# ACADEMIC WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170721-mechanic.html>

The retirement age should be increased to 75 years old. Discuss.

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

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

**4. RETIREMENT AGE:** Write a magazine article about the retirement age being increased to 75. 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 expert on the retirement age. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on people working to 80 and beyond. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. serving    | a. working       |
| 2. salary     | b. pay           |
| 3. prevent    | c. stop          |
| 4. scale      | d. climb up      |
| 5. assessing  | e. evaluating    |
| 6. dedication | f. loyalty       |
| 7. ovation    | g. applause      |
| 8. colleagues | h. coworkers     |
| 9. secret     | i. magic formula |
| 10. another   | j. an additional |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. 91
2. 50 cents an hour
3. 5am
4. For safety reasons
5. In hangars
6. His dedication to his job
7. A Boeing 777
8. A standing ovation
9. The secret behind his success?
10. The man upstairs

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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