Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

Level 6 – 19th July, 2018

New Mexico President takes 60% pay cut

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1807/180719-pay-cut.html

Contents

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

Twitter   twitter.com/SeanBanville

Facebook   www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

Google +   https://plus.google.com/+SeanBanville

THE ARTICLE

Mexico's president-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is leading by example in his country's austerity drive. He said he would accept less than half the salary of his predecessor when he takes office in December. This is part of an austerity drive to get Mexico's economy back on track. Mr Obrador told reporters on Sunday that: "What we want is for the budget to reach everybody." This means he will take home a salary of around $5,700 a month. This is just 40 per cent of the salary currently earned by incumbent President Enrique Peña Nieto. In addition, the president-elect said no public official would be able to earn more than he will. His supporters greatly welcomed his new austerity measures.

Mr Obrador said he wanted to cut his salary even further to play his part in helping the economy. He stopped at a 60 per cent cut because he thought a bigger cut would reduce the quality of people joining his government. Many are leaving well-paid positions in the private sector to take up ministerial posts that have a low salary ceiling. However, he said he would stand firm on his campaign promise to rein in perks given to high-level government officials. He said there would be cutbacks on chauffeurs, bodyguards and health insurance for ministers. Other measures he will introduce are to turn the official presidential residence into a cultural center and to stop pension payments to former presidents.

WARM-UPS

1. PAY CUTS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about pay cuts. 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?

president / example / half / salary / austerity / budget / incumbent / public official / play a part / quality / government / ceiling / perks / bodyguards / residence / pension

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

3. SALARY: Students A **strongly** believe everyone should take a pay cut to help their country; Students B **strongly** believe this is silly. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. PAY: What should these people get paid? Why? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How much?	**Why?**
Country's leader		
Soldier		
Top soccer player		
Builder		
Artist		
English teacher		

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

6. PERKS: Rank these with your partner. Put the best perks of the job at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- chauffeur
- free lunch
- gym membership
- shares

- company housing
- travel allowance
- discounts
- company car

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

1.	austerity	a.	Restored something to the same level or direction that it had before.
2.	drive	b.	The holder of an office or post.
3.	predecessor	c.	Difficult economic conditions created by government measures to reduce a budget deficit, especially by reducing public expenditure.
4.	back on track	d.	A plan or course of action taken to achieve a particular purpose.
5.	incumbent	e.	An organized effort to achieve a particular purpose; campaign.
6.	earn	f.	A person who held a job or office before the current holder.
7.	measure	g.	Get money in return for labor or services.

Paragraph 2

8.	play his part	h.	The official house of a government minister or other public and official figure.
9.	positions	i.	Help others fairly and do one's share in something.
10.	take up	j.	Jobs or roles.
11.	ceiling	k.	Be strong in your beliefs, positions and opinions.
12.	stand firm	l.	An upper limit, typically one set on prices, wages, or expenditure.
13.	perks	m.	Start something new (e.g. a job, project, etc.).
14.	residence	n.	Money, goods, or other benefits one gets as an employee.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

a. Mexico's new president will teach people how to drive.   **T / F**

b. Mexico's new president wants to backtrack on the economy.   **T / F**

c. Mr Obrador wants everyone to take a pay cut.   **T / F**

d. Mr Obrador said no public official would earn more than him.   **T / F**

e. Mr Obrador wanted to take a pay cut that was bigger than 60%.   **T / F**

f. Ministerial jobs in Mexico will have a high salary ceiling.   **T / F**

g. Mr Obrador will reduce the number of chauffeurs for ministers.   **T / F**

h. The presidential residence will be turned into a cultural center.   **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:
Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

1.	**drive**	a.	initiate
2.	**take home**	b.	actions
3.	**incumbent**	c.	previous
4.	**welcomed**	d.	earn
5.	**measures**	e.	current
6.	**promise**	f.	benefits
7.	**perks**	g.	campaign
8.	**introduce**	h.	home
9.	**residence**	i.	pledge
10.	**former**	j.	greeted

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

1.	Lopez Obrador is leading	a.	promise
2.	austerity	b.	austerity measures
3.	less than half the salary	c.	reduce the quality
4.	he will take home a salary of	d.	payments
5.	His supporters greatly welcomed his new	e.	of his predecessor
6.	play his part	f.	residence
7.	a bigger cut would	g.	by example
8.	stand firm on his campaign	h.	in helping the economy
9.	presidential	i.	drive
10.	pension	j.	around $5,700 a month

GAP FILL

Mexico's president-(1) _____ Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is leading by example in his country's (2) _____ drive. He said he would accept less than half the salary of his predecessor when he takes (3) _____ in December. This is part of an austerity drive to get Mexico's economy (4) _____ on track. Mr Obrador told reporters on Sunday that: "What we want is for the budget to reach everybody." This means he will take home a (5) _____ of around $5,700 a month. This is just 40 per cent of the salary currently earned by (6) _____ President Enrique Peña Nieto. In addition, the president-elect said no public (7) _____ would be able to earn more than he will. His supporters (8) _____ welcomed his new austerity measures.

austerity

official

back

greatly

elect

salary

office

incumbent

Mr Obrador said he wanted to cut his salary even (9) _____ to play his part in helping the economy. He stopped at a 60 per cent cut because he thought a bigger cut would reduce the (10) _____ of people joining his government. Many are leaving well-paid positions in the private (11) _____ to take up ministerial posts that have a low salary (12) _____. However, he said he would stand firm on his campaign promise to (13) _____ in perks given to high-level government officials. He said there would be (14) _____ on chauffeurs, bodyguards and health insurance for ministers. Other measures he will introduce are to turn the official presidential (15) _____ into a cultural center and to stop pension payments to (16) _____ presidents.

ceiling

quality

residence

sector

rein

former

further

cutbacks

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

1) Mexico's president-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is _____
   a. lead in by example
   b. leading by exemplar
   c. leading by example
   d. leading by egg sample

2) He said he would accept less than half the salary _____
   a. of his processor
   b. of his professor
   c. of his pre-dresser
   d. of his predecessor

3) This is part of an austerity drive to get Mexico's economy _____
   a. black in track
   b. back on track
   c. back in tack
   d. back on tack

4) just 40 per cent of the salary currently earned _____ President Enrique Peña Nieto
   a. bye incumbent
   b. buy incumbent
   c. buoy incumbent
   d. by incumbent

5) In addition, the president-elect said no public official would be able _____
   a. to earned more
   b. to earns more
   c. to earning more
   d. to earn more

6) Mr Obrador said he wanted to cut his salary even further to _____
   a. play this part
   b. play his part
   c. play is part
   d. players part

7) he thought a bigger cut would reduce the _____
   a. qualify of people
   b. quality off people
   c. qualify off people
   d. quality of people

8) take up ministerial posts that have a low _____
   a. salary sealing
   b. salary seal in
   c. salary ceiling
   d. salary seeing

9) However, he said he would stand firm on his campaign promise to _____
   a. reign in perks
   b. rein in perks
   c. raining perks
   d. rain in perks

10) a cultural center and to stop pension payments _____ presidents
   a. two former
   b. too former
   c. to former
   d. thru former

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

Mexico's president-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is (1) _____ in his country's austerity drive. He said he would accept less than half the salary of his predecessor when (2) _____ in December. This is part of an austerity drive to get Mexico's economy (3) _____. Mr Obrador told reporters on Sunday that: "What we want is for the budget to reach everybody." This means he will take (4) _____ of around $5,700 a month. This is just 40 per cent of the salary currently (5) _____ President Enrique Peña Nieto. In addition, the president-elect said no public official would be (6) _____ more than he will. His supporters greatly welcomed his new austerity measures.

Mr Obrador said he wanted to cut his salary even further to (7) _____ in helping the economy. He stopped at a 60 per cent cut because he thought a bigger cut would (8) _____ of people joining his government. Many are leaving well-paid positions in the private sector to take up ministerial posts that have a (9) _____. However, he said he would stand firm on his campaign promise to (10) _____ given to high-level government officials. He said there would (11) _____ chauffeurs, bodyguards and health insurance for ministers. Other measures he will introduce are to turn the official presidential residence into a cultural center and (12) _____ payments to former presidents.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What is Mr Obrador doing by example?

2. What does Mr Obrador want to get back on track?

3. How much will Mr Obrador's salary be?

4. Who would not be able to earn more than Mr Obrador?

5. Who welcomed Mr Obrador's austerity measures?

6. What did Mr Obrador want to play his part in helping?

7. Where might new government ministers be coming from?

8. What did Mr Obrador say he would rein in?

9. What kind of insurance will Mr Obrador cut back on for ministers?

10. Who will no longer receive pension payments in Mexico?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

1) What is Mr Obrador doing by example?
a) fishing
b) leading
c) mentoring
d) teaching

2) What does Mr Obrador want to get back on track?
a) a show
b) his life
c) a train
d) the economy

3) How much will Mr Obrador's salary be?
a) just over $5,700
b) exactly $5,700
c) around $5,700
d) just under $5,700

4) Who would not be able to earn more than Mr Obrador?
a) public officials
b) private workers
c) rock stars
d) soccer stars

5) Who welcomed Mr Obrador's austerity measures?
a) civil servants
b) his supporters
c) his wife
d) the current president

6) What did Mr Obrador want to play his part in helping?
a) the economy
b) the low-paid
c) the middle classes
d) the banking system

7) Where might new government ministers be coming from?
a) middle management
b) the south
c) the private sector
d) the USA

8) What did Mr Obrador say he would rein in?
a) perks
b) parks
c) berks
d) barks

9) What kind of insurance will Mr Obrador cut back on for ministers?
a) car insurance
b) home insurance
c) travel insurance
d) health insurance

10) Who will no longer receive pension payments in Mexico?
a) ministers
b) retired people
c) former presidents
d) rich people

ROLE PLAY

Role A – Free Lunches

You think free lunches are the best perks of the job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what isn't as good with their perks. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these perks (and why): gym membership, a company car or shares.

Role B – Gym Membership

You think gym membership is the best perk of the job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what isn't as good with their perks. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these perks (and why): free lunches, a company car or shares.

Role C – Company Car

You think a company car is the best perk of the job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what isn't as good with their perks. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these perks (and why): gym membership, free lunches or shares.

Role D – Shares

You think shares are the best perks of the job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what isn't as good with their perks. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these perks (and why): gym membership, a company car or free lunches.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

pay	cut

- 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:

• example	• part
• drive	• quality
• track	• positions
• month	• promise
• just	• health
• earn	• stop

PAY CUTS SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about pay cuts 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.

PAY CUTS 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 'pay'?

3. What do you think of Mr Obrador's pay cut?

4. How much should a country's president earn?

5. Should business leaders earn more than national leaders?

6. Should we all take a pay cut to help the government?

7. What should leaders do to lead by example?

8. How can we all help in austerity drives?

9. What is the most money anyone should be allowed to earn?

10. What do you think of your country's leader?

New Mexico President takes 60% pay cut – 19th July, 2018
Thousands more free lessons at breakingnewsenglish.com

PAY CUTS 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 'cut'?

13. What do you think about what you read?

14. When have you led by example?

15. What makes a good national leader?

16. Is it better to work in the private or public sector?

17. Do government ministers get too many perks?

18. Why do government ministers need a chauffeur?

19. Should former presidents still get pension payments?

20. What questions would you like to ask Mr Obrador?

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

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1807/180719-pay-cut.html

Mexico's president-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is (1) _____ by example in his country's austerity drive. He said he would accept less than half the salary of his (2) _____ when he takes office in December. This is part of an austerity drive to get Mexico's economy back on (3) _____. Mr Obrador told reporters on Sunday that: "What we want is for the budget to reach everybody." This means he will take home a salary of around $5,700 a month. This is just 40 per cent of the salary (4) _____ earned by incumbent President Enrique Peña Nieto. In addition, the president-elect said no public official would be able to (5) _____ more than he will. His supporters greatly (6) _____ his new austerity measures.

Mr Obrador said he wanted to cut his salary even further to (7) _____ his part in helping the economy. He stopped at a 60 per cent cut because he thought a bigger cut would (8) _____ the quality of people joining his government. Many are leaving well-paid positions in the private sector to take up ministerial posts that have a low salary (9) _____. However, he said he would stand firm on his campaign promise to rein in (10) _____ given to high-level government officials. He said there would be cutbacks on chauffeurs, bodyguards and health insurance for ministers. Other measures he will introduce are to (11) _____ the official presidential residence into a cultural center and to stop pension payments to (12) _____ presidents.

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

1.	(a)	lead	(b)	led	(c)	leading	(d)	leader
2.	(a)	predecessor	(b)	precedent	(c)	prediction	(d)	predicates
3.	(a)	track	(b)	tack	(c)	tacky	(d)	tactless
4.	(a)	currently	(b)	currency	(c)	currant	(d)	concurrently
5.	(a)	urn	(b)	earn	(c)	yearn	(d)	own
6.	(a)	waved	(b)	pleased	(c)	hugged	(d)	welcomed
7.	(a)	have	(b)	make	(c)	play	(d)	turn
8.	(a)	conduce	(b)	induce	(c)	deduce	(d)	reduce
9.	(a)	ceiling	(b)	roof	(c)	floor	(d)	ground
10.	(a)	perks	(b)	parks	(c)	packs	(d)	pucks
11.	(a)	tame	(b)	turn	(c)	digest	(d)	take
12.	(a)	framer	(b)	firmer	(c)	former	(d)	farmer

SPELLING

Paragraph 1

1. Obrador is <u>leaignd</u> by example

2. in his country's <u>rtstaeyui</u> drive

3. half the salary of his <u>opedcsresre</u>

4. for the <u>tebgud</u> to reach everybody

5. earned by <u>ncuenmitb</u> President Enrique

6. His <u>rsoertppsu</u> greatly welcomed...

Paragraph 2

7. take up <u>aiestlmrnii</u> posts

8. stand firm on his <u>gacianpm</u> promise

9. there would be cutbacks on <u>uacuferfsh</u>

10. health <u>scurnenia</u>

11. the official presidential <u>cisenedre</u>

12. stop <u>nosienp</u> payments

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

(   )   government. Many are leaving well-paid positions in the private sector to take up ministerial

(   )   posts that have a low salary ceiling. However, he said he would stand firm on his campaign promise to rein

(   )   track. Mr Obrador told reporters on Sunday that: "What we want is for the budget to reach

(   )   everybody." This means he will take home a salary of around $5,700 a month. This is just 40 per cent of the salary currently

(   )   official would be able to earn more than he will. His supporters greatly welcomed his new austerity measures.

(   )   in perks given to high-level government officials. He said there would be cutbacks

(   )   Mr Obrador said he wanted to cut his salary even further to play his part in helping the economy. He stopped

(   )   earned by incumbent President Enrique Peña Nieto. In addition, the president-elect said no public

(   )   at a 60 per cent cut because he thought a bigger cut would reduce the quality of people joining his

(   )   drive. He said he would accept less than half the salary of his predecessor when he takes

(*1*)   Mexico's president-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is leading by example in his country's austerity

(   )   the official presidential residence into a cultural center and to stop pension payments to former presidents.

(   )   office in December. This is part of an austerity drive to get Mexico's economy back on

(   )   on chauffeurs, bodyguards and health insurance for ministers. Other measures he will introduce are to turn

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

1. drive . country's example his Leading austerity by in

2. salary predecessor . of the Less half his than

3. an of part is drive . austerity This

4. is per just of cent This 40 the salary .

5. austerity welcomed greatly measures . supporters new His his

6. even He further . salary to cut wanted his

7. people the Reduce of joining government . quality his

8. to in high-level officials . government Rein perks given

9. would said there on cutbacks He chauffeurs . be

10. pension to payments To former presidents . stop

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

Mexico's president-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is *led / leading* by example in his country's austerity drive. He said he would accept *less / lesser* than half the salary of his *predecessor / precursor* when he takes office in December. This is part of an austerity drive to get Mexico's economy back *in / on* track. Mr Obrador told reporters on Sunday that: "What we want is *for / from* the budget to reach everybody." This means he will take home a salary *off / of* around $5,700 a month. This is just 40 per cent of the salary currently earned *by / for* incumbent President Enrique Peña Nieto. In *addition / additionally*, the president-elect said no public *officially / official* would be able to earn more than he will. His supporters greatly welcomed his new *austerity / posterity* measures.

Mr Obrador said he wanted to cut his salary even *farther / further* to play his part *on / in* helping the economy. He stopped at a 60 per cent cut because he thought a bigger cut would reduce the quality of people *joint / joining* his government. Many are leaving well-paid *position / positions* in the private sector to take up ministerial posts that have a *low / law* salary ceiling. However, he said he would stand *farm / firm* on his campaign promise to rein in perks given to high-level government officials. He said there would be *cutbacks / cuttings* on chauffeurs, bodyguards and health insurance for ministers. Other *measurements / measures* he will introduce are to turn the official presidential residence *into / onto* a cultural center and to stop pension payments to *former / firmer* presidents.

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)

M_x_c_'s   p r_s_d_n t -_l_c t   A n d r_s   M_n__ l   L_p_z   O b r_d_r   _s   l__ d_n g   b y   _x_m p l_ _n   h_s   c__ n t r y ' s   __ s t_r_t y   d r_v_.   H_   s__ d   h_   w__ l d   _c c_p t   l_s s   t h_n   h_l f   t h_   s_l_r y   _f   h_s   p r_d_c_s s_r   w h_n   h_   t_k_s   _f f_c_   _n   D_c_m b_r .   T h_s   _s   p_r t   _f   _n   __ s t_r_t y   d r_v_   t_   g_t   M_x_c_'s   _c_n_m y   b_c k   _n   t r_c k .   M r   O b r_d_r   t_l d   r_p_r t_r s   _n   S_n d_y   t h_t :   " W h_t   w_   w_n t   _s   f_r   t h_   b_d g_t   t_   r__ c h   _v_r y b_d y . "   T h_s   m__ n s   h_   w_l l   t_k_   h_m_ _   s_l_r y   _f   _r__ n d $ 5 , 7 0 0   _   m_n t h .   T h_s   _s   j_s t   4 0   p_r   c_n t   _f   s_l_r y   c_r r_n t l y   __ r n_d   b y   _n c_m b_n t   P r_s_d_n t   E n r_q__   P_ñ_   N__ t_.   I n   _d d_t__ n ,   t h_   p r_s_d_n t -_l_c t   s__ d   n_   p_b l_c   _f f_c__ l   w__ l d   b_   _b l_   t_   __ r n   m_r_   t h_n   h_   w_l l .   H_s   s_p p_r t_r s   g r__ t l y   w_l c_m_d   h_s   n_w   __ s t_r_t y   m__ s_r_s .

M r   O b r_d_r   s__ d   h_   w_n t_d   t_   c_t   h_s   s_l_r y   _v_n   f_r t h_r   t_   p l_y   h_s   p_r t   _n   h_l p_n g   t h_   _c_n_m y .   H_   s t_p p_d   _t   _   6 0   p_r   c_n t   c_t   b_c__ s_   h_   t h__ g h t   _   b_g g_r   c_t   w__ l d   r_d_c_   t h_   q__ l_t y   _f   p__ p l_   j__ n_n g   h_s   g_v_r n m_n t .   M_n y   _r_   l__ v_n g   w_l l - p__ d   p_s t__ n s   _n   t h_   p r_v_t_   s_c t_r   t_   t_k_ _p   m_n_s t_r__ l   p_s t s   t h_t   h_v_ _   l_w   s_l_r y   c__ l_n g .   H_w_v_r ,   h_   s__ d   h_   w__ l d   s t_n d   f_r m   _n   h_s   c_m p__ g n   p r_m_s_   t_   r__ n   _n   p_r k s   g_v_n   t_   h_g h - l_v_l   g_v_r n m_n t   _f f_c__ l s .   H_   s__ d   t h_r_   w__ l d   b_   c_t b_c k s   _n   c h__ f f__ r s ,   b_d y g__ r d s   _n d   h__ l t h   _n s_r_n c_   f_r   m_n_s t_r s .   O t h_r   m__ s_r_s   h_   w_l l   _n t r_d_c_ _r_   t_   t_r n   t h_   _f f_c__ l   p r_s_d_n t__ l   r_s_d_n c_   _n t_ _   c_l t_r_l   c_n t_r   _n d   t_   s t_p   p_n s__ n   p_y m_n t s   t_   f_r m_r   p r_s_d_n t s .

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

mexicos president elect andres manuel lopez obrador is leading by example in his countrys austerity drive he said he would accept less than half the salary of his predecessor when he takes office in december this is part of an austerity drive to get mexicos economy back on track mr obrador told reporters on sunday that what we want is for the budget to reach everybody this means he will take home a salary of around 5700 a month this is just 40 per cent of the salary currently earned by incumbent president enrique pea nieto in addition the president elect said no public official would be able to earn more than he will his supporters greatly welcomed his new austerity measures

mr obrador said he wanted to cut his salary even further to play his part in helping the economy he stopped at a 60 per cent cut because he thought a bigger cut would reduce the quality of people joining his government many are leaving well paid positions in the private sector to take up ministerial posts that have a low salary ceiling however he said he would stand firm on his campaign promise to rein in perks given to high level government officials he said there would be cutbacks on chauffeurs bodyguards and health insurance for ministers other measures he will introduce are to turn the official presidential residence into a cultural center and to stop pension payments to former presidents.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

Mexico'spresident-electAndresManuelLopezObradorisleadingbyexampleinhiscountry'sausteritydrive.HesaidhewouldacceptlessthanhalfthesalaryofhispredecessorwhenhetakesofficeinDecember.ThisispartofanausteritydrivetogetMexico'seconomybackontrack.MrObradortoldreportersonSundaythat:"Whatwewantisforthebudgettoreacheverybody."Thismeanshewilltakehomeasalaryofaround$5,700amonth.Thisisjust40percentofthesalarycurrentlyearnedbyincumbentPresidentEnriquePeñaNieto.Inaddition,thepresident-electsaidnopublicofficialwouldbeabletoearnmorethanhewill.Hissupportersgreatlywelcomedhisnewausteritymeasures.MrObradorsaidhewantedtocuthissalaryevenfurthertoplayhispartinhelpingtheeconomy.Hestoppedata60percentcutbecausehethoughtabiggercutwouldreducethequalityofpeoplejoininghisgovernment.Manyareleavingwell-paidpositionsintheprivatesectortotakeupministerialpoststhathavealowsalaryceiling.However,hesaidhewouldstandfirmonhiscampaignpromisetoreinperksgiventohigh-levelgovernmentofficials.Hesaidtherewouldbecutbacksonchauffeurs,bodyguardsandhealthinsuranceforministers.Othermeasureshewillintroducearetoturntheofficialpresidentialresidenceintoaculturalcenterandtostoppensionpaymentstoformerpresidents.

FREE WRITING

Write about **pay cuts** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

ACADEMIC WRITING

Everyone should take a pay cut to help their government. 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. PAY CUTS: Make a poster about pay cuts. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. AUSTERITY: Write a magazine article about government spending being a better way out of austerity than pay cuts. 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 pay cuts. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions on pay cuts. 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. e   3. f   4. a   5. b   6. g   7. d
8. i   9. j   10. m   11. l   12. k   13. n   14. h

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. drive	a.	campaign
2. take home	b.	earn
3. incumbent	c.	current
4. welcomed	d.	greeted
5. measures	e.	actions
6. promise	f.	pledge
7. perks	g.	benefits
8. introduce	h.	initiate
9. residence	i.	home
10. former	j.	previous

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Leading

2. The economy
3. Around $5,700
4. Public officials
5. His supporters

6. The economy
7. The private sector

8. Perks

9. Health insurance
10. Former presidents

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. Leading by example in his country's austerity drive.
2. Less than half the salary of his predecessor.
3. This is part of an austerity drive.
4. This is just 40 per cent of the salary.
5. His supporters greatly welcomed his new austerity measures.
6. He wanted to cut his salary even further.
7. Reduce the quality of people joining his government.
8. Rein in perks given to high-level government officials.
9. He said there would be cutbacks on chauffeurs.
10. To stop pension payments to former presidents.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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