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Level 3

Panasonic China staff to get "pollution pay"

16th March, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140316-pollution-pay.html>

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

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140316-pollution-pay.html>

Japanese electronics company Panasonic will pay its Japanese staff in China "pollution pay". The company wants to give its workers more money because of China's poor air quality. No one knows how many people will get the extra cash. Neither did the company say how much the additional pay would be. Panasonic did not announce any plans to give the payment to its Chinese staff. Workers who have to work in other countries usually get extra pay for phoning home, eating in restaurants or buying furniture. Panasonic is probably the first company in the world to give compensation to its workers because of pollution. Other companies in China may now follow Panasonic's example.

Air pollution is a serious problem in China. The World Health Organization said pollution levels there were 15 times higher than healthy levels. China's Premier, Li Keqiang, recently said his country would fight a "war on pollution". The Japan Times newspaper reported that: "Over the weekend, a top Chinese environment official said air quality was below national standards in almost every major city last year." There are several reasons why pollution in China has become so bad in recent years. The country's economic success means there are thousands more factories. China also uses coal as its main source of energy. In addition, there are hundreds of thousands more cars than before on China's roads.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/business-26555874>
<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2014/03/13/business/panasonic-china-staff-get-pay-for-pollution/>

WARM-UPS

1. POLLUTION: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about pollution. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

electronics / staff / workers / additional / payment / phoning home / follow / example / serious problem / healthy levels / environment / reasons / economic / success / roads

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

3. MORE PAY: Why might these people ask for more pay? Should they get it? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Why might they want more?	Should they get more?
Teachers		
Soldiers		
Street cleaners		
Sales assistants		
Customer service staff		
Librarians		

4. POLLUTION PAY: Students A **strongly** believe people should get pollution pay; Students B **strongly** believe that's a silly idea. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. HIGHEST SALARY: Rank these with your partner. Put the ones who should get the highest salary at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- English teacher
- nurse
- bank clerk
- police officer
- soldier
- train driver
- fire fighter
- hairdresser

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

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140316-pollution-pay.html>

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

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. Panasonic staff will get a 7% increase in pay because of pollution. | T / F |
| b. The company said its Chinese workers would also get more pay. | T / F |
| c. Panasonic may be the first company to offer pollution pay. | T / F |
| d. The article said other companies might copy Panasonic. | T / F |
| e. Pollution in China is 15 times higher than safe/healthy levels. | T / F |
| f. China said it is fighting a war on pollution. | T / F |
| g. Pollution was bad in half of China's major cities last year. | T / F |
| h. China's main source of energy comes from oil. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. staff | a. dining |
| 2. extra | b. amounts |
| 3. eating | c. copy |
| 4. buying | d. quality |
| 5. example | e. workers |
| 6. levels | f. leading |
| 7. top | g. primary |
| 8. standards | h. additional |
| 9. main | i. plus |
| 10. in addition | j. purchasing |

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. poor | a. work in other countries |
| 2. Panasonic did not announce any | b. higher |
| 3. Workers who have to | c. main source of energy |
| 4. give compensation | d. Panasonic's example |
| 5. companies in China may now follow | e. thousands more |
| 6. 15 times | f. why |
| 7. below national standards in almost | g. to its workers |
| 8. There are several reasons | h. every major city |
| 9. China also uses coal as its | i. plans |
| 10. hundreds of | j. air quality |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140316-pollution-pay.html>

Japanese electronics company Panasonic will (1) _____ its Japanese staff in China "pollution pay". The company wants to give its (2) _____ more money because of China's poor air quality. No one knows how many people will get the (3) _____ cash. Neither did the company say how much the additional pay would be. Panasonic did not (4) _____ any plans to give the payment to its Chinese staff. Workers who have to work in other countries (5) _____ get extra pay for phoning home, eating in restaurants or buying (6) _____. Panasonic is probably the first company in the world to give (7) _____ to its workers because of pollution. Other companies in China may now follow Panasonic's (8) _____.

extra
pay
compensation
usually
workers
example
furniture
announce

Air pollution is a (9) _____ problem in China. The World Health Organization said pollution levels there were 15 times higher than (10) _____ levels. China's Premier, Li Keqiang, recently said his country would fight a "(11) _____ on pollution". The Japan Times newspaper reported that: "Over the (12) _____, a top Chinese environment official said air quality was below national standards in almost every major city last year." There are several (13) _____ why pollution in China has become so bad in recent years. The country's economic (14) _____ means there are thousands more factories. China also uses coal as its main (15) _____ of energy. In addition, there are (16) _____ of thousands more cars than before on China's roads.

weekend
war
serious
source
success
hundreds
healthy
reasons

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140316-pollution-pay.html>

- 1) The company wants to give its workers more money because of China's _____
 - a. poor air qualifies
 - b. poor air qualify
 - c. poor air quality
 - d. poor air quantity
- 2) Neither did the company say how much the _____ be
 - a. additionally pay would
 - b. addition all pay would
 - c. add emotional pay would
 - d. additional pay would
- 3) Workers who have to work in other countries usually get extra pay _____
 - a. for phone-in home
 - b. for phoning home
 - c. for phone in-home
 - d. for phony home
- 4) Panasonic is probably the first company in the world _____
 - a. to give compensation
 - b. to give condensation
 - c. to give constipation
 - d. to give commemoration
- 5) Other companies in China may now follow _____
 - a. Panasonic's exemplar
 - b. Panasonic's exemplar
 - c. Panasonic's example
 - d. Panasonic's examples
- 6) pollution levels there were 15 times higher _____
 - a. than healthy label
 - b. than healthy levels
 - c. than healthy level
 - d. than healthy labels
- 7) a top Chinese environment official said air quality was _____
 - a. below national standards
 - b. below nation all standards
 - c. below gnash an all-standards
 - d. below gnashing all standards
- 8) There are several reasons why pollution in China has become so _____
 - a. bad in recently years
 - b. bad in resent years
 - c. bad in re-scent years
 - d. bad in recent years
- 9) The country's economic success means there are thousands _____
 - a. more factories
 - b. mall factories
 - c. Moor factories
 - d. mar factories
- 10) China also uses coal as its main _____
 - a. sauce of energy
 - b. source of energy
 - c. soars of energy
 - d. spores of energy

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140316-pollution-pay.html>

Japanese (1) _____ Panasonic will pay its Japanese staff in China "pollution pay". The company wants to give its workers more money because of China's (2) _____. No one knows how many people will get the extra cash. Neither did the company say how much the (3) _____ be. Panasonic did not announce any plans to give the payment to its Chinese staff. Workers (4) _____ in other countries usually get extra pay for phoning home, eating in restaurants or buying furniture. Panasonic (5) _____ company in the world to give compensation to its workers because of pollution. Other companies in China (6) _____ Panasonic's example.

Air pollution (7) _____ in China. The World Health Organization said pollution levels there were (8) _____ than healthy levels. China's Premier, Li Keqiang, recently said his country would fight a "war on pollution". The Japan Times newspaper reported that: "Over the weekend, a top Chinese environment official (9) _____ below national standards in almost every major city last year." There are several (10) _____ in China has become so bad in recent years. The country's economic success means there are thousands more factories. China also uses coal as its (11) _____ energy. In addition, there are (12) _____ more cars than before on China's roads.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140316-pollution-pay.html>

1. What poor thing made Panasonic want to pay workers more?

2. How many people will get the extra pay?

3. How much will the additional pay be?

4. How many other companies give "pollution pay" to workers?

5. What will other companies follow?

6. How many times higher than healthy are China's pollution levels?

7. What is China fighting a war on?

8. In how many cities was pollution below China's standards last year?

9. What does China use as its main source of energy?

10. What are there more of on Chinese roads?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140316-pollution-pay.html>

1. What poor thing made Panasonic want to pay workers more?
 - a) huge profits
 - b) poor air quality
 - c) the kindness in CEO hearts
 - d) strikes at factories
2. How many people will get the extra pay?
 - a) all of them
 - b) half
 - c) those who never come to work late
 - d) no one knows
3. How much will the additional pay be?
 - a) Panasonic didn't say
 - b) \$386
 - c) 3.86%
 - d) the workers can decide
4. How many other companies give "pollution pay" to workers?
 - a) a few
 - b) several
 - c) probably none
 - d) numerous
5. What will other companies follow?
 - a) the leader
 - b) Panasonic's example
 - c) the Great Wall of China
 - d) profits
6. How many times higher than healthy are China's pollution levels?
 - a) 15
 - b) 16
 - c) 17
 - d) 18
7. What is China fighting a war on?
 - a) paper
 - b) waste
 - c) pollution
 - d) corruption
8. In how many cities was pollution below China's standards last year?
 - a) nearly every major city
 - b) half
 - c) 79
 - d) 28,739
9. What does China use as its main source of energy?
 - a) coal
 - b) thermal energy
 - c) hydro-electricity
 - d) oil
10. What are there more of on Chinese roads?
 - a) accidents
 - b) billboards
 - c) traffic jams
 - d) cars

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140316-pollution-pay.html>

Role A – English teacher

You are an English teacher. You think you should get the highest salary. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them reasons why they shouldn't get a high salary. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these jobs (and why): nurse, soldier or bank clerk.

Role B – Nurse

You are a nurse. You think you should get the highest salary. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them reasons why they shouldn't get a high salary. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these jobs (and why): English teacher, soldier or bank clerk.

Role C – Soldier

You are a soldier. You think you should get the highest salary. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them reasons why they shouldn't get a high salary. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these jobs (and why): nurse, English teacher or bank clerk.

Role D – Bank clerk

You are a bank clerk. You think you should get the highest salary. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them reasons why they shouldn't get a high salary. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these jobs (and why): nurse, soldier or English teacher.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140316-pollution-pay.html>

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

pollution	pay
------------------	------------

- 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">• electronics• knows• plans• home• first• follow	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• serious• fight• below• several• success• roads
---	---

POLLUTION SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140316-pollution-pay.html>

Write five GOOD questions about pollution 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.

POLLUTION DISCUSSION

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

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'pollution'?
- c) Is pollution pay a good idea?
- d) How much should it be?
- e) Do you think Panasonic's Chinese workers should also get the extra pay?
- f) What other dangerous things should workers get more pay for?
- g) Is it right that people who work in other countries get more pay?
- h) Why would you need more pay if you worked in another country?
- i) Should workers get less pay for working in beautiful cities?
- j) Should English teachers get more pay?

Panasonic China staff to get "pollution pay" – 16th March, 2014
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POLLUTION DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) How is air pollution where you live?
- c) Will pollution disappear when we use more green energy?
- d) Would you move if your city became too polluted?
- e) What does a country do in a "war on pollution"?
- f) How does a lot of pollution affect people's lives?
- g) Is economic success good, even if it brings lots of pollution?
- h) How can we reduce the number of cars on the roads?
- i) How much do you worry about pollution?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the boss of Panasonic?

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/1403/140316-pollution-pay.html>

Japanese electronics company Panasonic will (1) _____ its Japanese staff in China "pollution pay". The company wants to give its workers more money because (2) _____ China's poor air quality. No one knows how many people will get the extra cash. Neither did the company say how much the additional pay would (3) _____. Panasonic did not announce any plans to give the payment to its Chinese staff. Workers who have to work in other countries usually get extra pay for (4) _____ home, eating in restaurants or buying furniture. Panasonic is (5) _____ the first company in the world to give compensation to its workers because of pollution. Other companies in China may now (6) _____ Panasonic's example.

Air pollution is a (7) _____ problem in China. The World Health Organization said pollution levels there were 15 times higher than healthy levels. China's Premier, Li Keqiang, recently said his country would fight a "war on pollution". The Japan Times newspaper reported that: "(8) _____ the weekend, a top Chinese environment official said air quality was below national standards in almost every (9) _____ city last year." There are several reasons why pollution in China has become so bad in recent years. The country's economic (10) _____ means there are thousands more factories. China also uses coal as its main (11) _____ of energy. In addition, there are hundreds of thousands more cars than (12) _____ on China's roads.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) payment | (b) pay | (c) payee | (d) paid |
| 2. | (a) then | (b) of | (c) that | (d) really |
| 3. | (a) take | (b) have | (c) do | (d) be |
| 4. | (a) phoned | (b) phoning | (c) phone | (d) phones |
| 5. | (a) probable | (b) probability | (c) probabilities | (d) probably |
| 6. | (a) chase | (b) trail | (c) follow | (d) stalk |
| 7. | (a) serious | (b) serial | (c) series | (d) sears |
| 8. | (a) Under | (b) Across | (c) Over | (d) Through |
| 9. | (a) capital | (b) noisy | (c) pollution | (d) major |
| 10. | (a) success | (b) excess | (c) access | (d) recess |
| 11. | (a) source | (b) sauce | (c) soars | (d) spores |
| 12. | (a) before | (b) past | (c) early | (d) history |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140316-pollution-pay.html>

Paragraph 1

1. Japanese oesrtlcenic company
2. poor air ltauyqi
3. taailndoi pay
4. Panasonic did not unocnaen any plans
5. buying frntuueir
6. follow Panasonic's xlepema

Paragraph 2

7. a iessuro problem
8. 15 times higher than ythehla levels
9. a top Chinese ervnmineont official
10. below national stddsaanr
11. The country's economic cesssuc
12. uantshods more factories

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140316-pollution-pay.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () fight a "war on pollution". The Japan Times newspaper reported that: "Over the weekend, a top Chinese environment
- () or buying furniture. Panasonic is probably the first company in the world to give compensation to its workers because
- () official said air quality was below national standards in almost every major
- () years. The country's economic success means there are thousands more factories. China also uses coal as its main source
- () levels there were 15 times higher than healthy levels. China's Premier, Li Keqiang, recently said his country would
- () of pollution. Other companies in China may now follow Panasonic's example.
- () Air pollution is a serious problem in China. The World Health Organization said pollution
- () additional pay would be. Panasonic did not announce any plans to give the payment to its Chinese staff. Workers
- () who have to work in other countries usually get extra pay for phoning home, eating in restaurants
- () to give its workers more money because of China's poor air quality. No one
- () city last year." There are several reasons why pollution in China has become so bad in recent
- () of energy. In addition, there are hundreds of thousands more cars than before on China's roads.
- (**1**) Japanese electronics company Panasonic will pay its Japanese staff in China "pollution pay". The company wants
- () knows how many people will get the extra cash. Neither did the company say how much the

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140316-pollution-pay.html>

1. pay China its Japanese Panasonic staff will in.

2. wants its money company give more The to workers.

3. how knows one No cash extra the get will people many.

4. to countries have other who in Workers work.

5. follow now may companies Other example Panasonic's.

6. problem pollution in is China a serious Air.

7. on His fight "war . would pollution" country a

8. city in almost Below every national major standards.

9. there means Success factories more thousands are.

10. source of energy . China also uses coal as its main

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140316-pollution-pay.html>

Japanese *electronics / electric's* company Panasonic will pay its Japanese staff in China "pollution pay". The company wants to give its *workings / workers* more money because of China's *poor / poorly* air quality. No one knows how many people will get the extra *cashing / cash*. Neither did the company say how much the *additionally / additional* pay would be. Panasonic did not *announce / announcement* any plans to give the payment to its Chinese staff. Workers who have to work in *another / other* countries usually get extra pay for *phoning / phone* home, eating in restaurants or buying furniture. Panasonic is probably the first company *in / on* the world to give compensation to its workers because of pollution. Other companies in China may now follow Panasonic's *example / lesson*.

Air pollution is a *serious / seriously* problem in China. The World Health Organization said pollution *level / levels* there were 15 times higher than healthy levels. China's Premier, Li Keqiang, recently *say / said* his country would *fight / fighting* a "war on pollution". The Japan Times newspaper reported that: "*Over / Under* the weekend, a top Chinese environment official said air quality was below national standards in *almost / most* every major city last year." There are *several / severe* reasons why pollution in China has become so bad in *recently / recent* years. The country's economic success means there are thousands *most / more* factories. China also uses coal as its main source of energy. In addition, there are hundreds of thousands more cars than before on China's *road / roads*.

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/1403/140316-pollution-pay.html>

J_p_n_s_ _l_ctr_n_cs c_mp_ny P_n_s_n_c w_ll p_y_ts
J_p_n_s_ st_ff_n Ch_n_ "p_ll_t_n p_y". Th_c_mp_ny
w_nts t_g_v_ _ts w_rk_rs m_r_ m_n_y b_c_s_ _f
Ch_n_'s p_r_ _r q_ll_ty. N_ _n_ kn_ws h_w m_ny
p_pl_ w_ll g_t th_ _xtr_ c_sh. N__th_r d_d th_
c_mp_ny s_y h_w m_ch th_ _dd_t_n l_p_y w_ll d_b_.
P_n_s_n_c d_d n_t _nn_ _nc_ _ny pl_ns t_g_v_ th_
p_ym_nt t_ _ts Ch_n_s_ st_ff. W_rk_rs wh_ h_v_ t_
w_rk_ _n_ th_r c_ntr_s_ s_ _lly g_t _xtr_ p_y_f_r
ph_n_ng h_m_, _t_ng _n r_st_r_nts _r b_y_ng
f_rn_t_r_. P_n_s_n_c_ s_pr_b_bly th_ f_rst c_mp_ny _n
th_ w_rld t_g_v_ c_mp_ns_t_n t_ _ts w_rk_rs
b_c_s_ _f p_ll_t_n. _th_r c_mp_n_s_ _n Ch_n_ m_y
n_w_f_ll_w P_n_s_n_c's _xmpl_.

_r p_ll_t_n_ s_ _s_r_ _s pr_bl_m_ _n Ch_n_. Th_
W_rld H__lth _rg_n_z_t_n s_d p_ll_t_n l_v_ls th_r_
w_r_ 15 t_m_s h_g_h_r th_n h__lthy l_v_ls. Ch_n_'s
Pr_m_r, L_K_q__ng, r_c_ntly s_d h_s c_ntry w_ll d
f_ght _ "w_r_ _n p_ll_t_n". Th_ J_p_n T_m_s
n_wsp_p_r_r_p_r_t_d th_t: "_v_r th_ w_k_nd, _t_p
Ch_n_s_ _nv_r_nm_nt _ff_c_l_s_d _r q_ll_ty w_s
b_l_w_n_t_n l_st_nd_rds _n _lm_st_v_ry m_j_r_c_ty
l_st_y_r." Th_r_ _r_s_v_r_l_r_s_ns why p_ll_t_n _n
Ch_n_ h_s b_c_m_ s_ b_d _n r_c_nt y_rs. Th_
c_ntry's c_n_m_c_s_cc_ss m_ns th_r_ _r th_s_nds
m_r_ f_ct_r_s. Ch_n_ _ls_ _s_s_c_l_s_ts m_n
s_rc_ _f_n_rgy. _n _dd_t_n, th_r_ _r h_ndr_ds _f
th_s_nds m_r_c_rs th_n b_f_r_ _n Ch_n_'s r_ds.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140316-pollution-pay.html>

japanese electronics company panasonic will pay its japanese staff in china "pollution pay" the company wants to give its workers more money because of china's poor air quality no one knows how many people will get the extra cash neither did the company say how much the additional pay would be panasonic did not announce any plans to give the payment to its chinese staff workers who have to work in other countries usually get extra pay for phoning home eating in restaurants or buying furniture panasonic is probably the first company in the world to give compensation to its workers because of pollution other companies in china may now follow panasonic's example

air pollution is a serious problem in china the world health organization said pollution levels there were 15 times higher than healthy levels china's premier li keqiang recently said his country would fight a "war on pollution" the japan times newspaper reported that "over the weekend a top chinese environment official said air quality was below national standards in almost every major city last year" there are several reasons why pollution in china has become so bad in recent years the country's economic success means there are thousands more factories china also uses coal as its main source of energy in addition there are hundreds of thousands more cars than before on china's roads

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1403/140316-pollution-pay.html>

Japanese electronics company Panasonic will pay its Japanese staff in China "pollution pay". The company wants to give its workers more money because of China's poor air quality. No one knows how many people will get the extra cash. Neither did the company say how much the additional pay would be. Panasonic did not announce any plan to give the payment to its Chinese staff. Workers who have to work in other countries usually get extra pay for phoning home, eating in restaurants or buying furniture. Panasonic is probably the first company in the world to give compensation to its workers because of pollution. Other companies in China may now follow Panasonic's example. Air pollution is a serious problem in China. The World Health Organization said pollution levels there were 15 times higher than healthy levels. China's Premier, Li Keqiang, recently said his country would fight a "war on pollution". The Japan Times newspaper reported that: "Over the weekend, top Chinese environment officials said air quality was below national standards in almost every major city last year." There are several reasons why pollution in China has become so bad in recent years. The country's economic success means there are thousands more factories. China also uses coal as its main source of energy. In addition, there are hundreds of thousands more cars than before on China's roads.

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

3. POLLUTION: Make a poster about pollution. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. POLLUTION PAY: Write a magazine article about pollution pay. 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 pollution. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to reduce it. 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 T e T f T g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. staff | a. workers |
| 2. extra | b. additional |
| 3. eating | c. dining |
| 4. buying | d. purchasing |
| 5. follow | e. copy |
| 6. levels | f. amounts |
| 7. top | g. leading |
| 8. standards | h. quality |
| 9. main | i. primary |
| 10. in addition | j. plus |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Air quality
2. No one knows
3. Panasonic didn't say
4. Probably none
5. Panasonic's example
6. 15
7. Pollution
8. Nearly every major city
9. Coal
10. Cars

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 ;-)