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## Gambia introduces 3-day weekend

**24th January, 2013**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1301/130124-weekends.html>

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# THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130124-weekends.html>

The president of Gambia has said all public workers will have three-day weekends starting from February 1st. President Yayha Jammeh has added Friday to the regular weekend of Saturday and Sunday. He wants people to farm, rest more and pray. However, he also announced that government employees would work from 8am to 6pm Mondays to Thursdays. In addition: "Schools, banks and all other affected places are free to work on Saturdays." This means that people may have split weekends, and work an extra 10 hours a week. Government workers currently work from 8am to 4pm. Working until 6pm means eight hours extra, which could become ten if they have to work on Saturdays too.

The president said the new working hours would, "allow Gambians to devote more time to prayers, social activities and agriculture". He said people could, "go back to the land and grow what we eat and eat what we grow for a healthy and wealthy nation". Gambia's 'Freedom Newspaper' criticised the president's idea. It said the three-day weekend, "is going to [have a bad] effect on the economy and the country. Many workers...are worried that the changes are going to create problems for them." The paper added: "Gambia's economy and infrastructure have collapsed thanks to Jammeh's poor leadership." Gambia is the smallest nation on the African continent, with a population of just 1.8 million.

Sources: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/20/us-gambia-work-idUSBRE90J06O20130120>  
<http://www.freedomnewspaper.com/Homepage/tabid/36/mid/367/newsid367/8338/EDITORIAL-TO-HELL-WITH-YAHYA-JAMMEH-AND-HIS-FOUR-DAY-HOURLY-WORK-CHANGES-A-RETARDED-DUMIHARAM-MESSING-UP-/Default.aspx>

# WARM-UPS

**1. WEEKENDS:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about Weekends. 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.

*president / 3-day weekend / regular / farm / government employees / work Saturdays / devote more time / prayers / agriculture / healthy / wealthy / worried / infrastructure*

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

**3. 3-DAYER:** Is a 3-day weekend / 4-day week a good idea? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Reasons why it's a good idea	Reasons why it's a bad idea
For students		
For shoppers		
For hospitals		
For the police		
For librarians		
For soldiers		

**4. 3 DAYS OFF:** Students A **strongly** believe 3 days off is a great idea; Students B **strongly** believe it's a bad idea. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. MORE FREE TIME:** What would you do? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- sleep
- read
- exercise
- watch movies
- go out with friends
- study
- surf the Internet
- go shopping

**6. PRAY:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'pray'. 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/1301/130124-weekends.html>

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

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a. Everyone in Gambia will have a 3-day weekend from February.      | T / F |
| b. The president wants people to pray more and grow things.         | T / F |
| c. Government workers will have to work 2 hours more on Wednesdays. | T / F |
| d. No one will work on Saturdays.                                   | T / F |
| e. The president said the 3-day weekend would make Gambia richer.   | T / F |
| f. The 'Freedom Newspaper' said the 3-day weekend was a great idea. | T / F |
| g. The newspaper said the president had done much to help Gambia.   | T / F |
| h. There are fewer than 2,000,000 in Gambia.                        | T / F |

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

- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1. workers     | a. bad       |
| 2. regular     | b. farming   |
| 3. free to     | c. employees |
| 4. split       | d. make      |
| 5. extra       | e. country   |
| 6. agriculture | f. divided   |
| 7. wealthy     | g. usual     |
| 8. create      | h. able to   |
| 9. poor        | i. rich      |
| 10. nation     | j. more      |

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

- |                                  |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. He wants people to farm, rest | a. weekends              |
| 2. Schools, banks and all        | b. on the economy        |
| 3. people may have split         | c. on Saturdays too      |
| 4. Working until 6pm means       | d. more and pray         |
| 5. if they have to work          | e. wealthy nation        |
| 6. devote more                   | f. other affected places |
| 7. a healthy and                 | g. just 1.8 million      |
| 8. have a bad effect             | h. infrastructure        |
| 9. Gambia's economy and          | i. eight hours extra     |
| 10. a population of              | j. time to prayers       |

# GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130124-weekends.html>

The president of Gambia has said all (1) \_\_\_\_\_ workers will have three-day weekends starting from February 1st. President Yayha Jammeh has added Friday to the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ weekend of Saturday and Sunday. He wants people to (3) \_\_\_\_\_, rest more and pray. However, he also (4) \_\_\_\_\_ that government employees would work from 8am to 6pm Mondays to Thursdays. In addition: "Schools, banks and all other (5) \_\_\_\_\_ places are free to work on Saturdays." This means that people may have (6) \_\_\_\_\_ weekends, and work an extra 10 hours a week. Government workers (7) \_\_\_\_\_ work from 8am to 4pm. Working until 6pm means eight hours (8) \_\_\_\_\_, which could become ten if they have to work on Saturdays too.

*announced*  
*public*  
*regular*  
*extra*  
*split*  
*farm*  
*currently*  
*affected*

The president said the new working hours would, "allow Gambians to (9) \_\_\_\_\_ more time to prayers, social activities and agriculture". He said people could, "go back to the land and (10) \_\_\_\_\_ what we eat and eat what we grow for a healthy and (11) \_\_\_\_\_ nation". Gambia's 'Freedom Newspaper' criticised the president's idea. It said the three-day weekend, "is going to [have a bad] (12) \_\_\_\_\_ on the economy and the country. Many workers...are worried that the changes are going to (13) \_\_\_\_\_ problems for them." The paper added: "Gambia's economy and infrastructure have (14) \_\_\_\_\_ thanks to Jammeh's (15) \_\_\_\_\_ leadership." Gambia is the smallest nation on the African (16) \_\_\_\_\_, with a population of just 1.8 million.

*poor*  
*effect*  
*grow*  
*continent*  
*devote*  
*create*  
*wealthy*  
*collapsed*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130124-weekends.html>

- 1) The president of Gambia has said all public workers will have \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. three-day weekends
  - b. three-days weekends
  - c. three-day weekend
  - d. three daily weekends
- 2) President Yayha Jammeh has added Friday to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the regulation weekend
  - b. the regular weekends
  - c. the regularity weekend
  - d. the regular weekend
- 3) However, he also announced that government employees \_\_\_\_\_ 8am to 6pm
  - a. would worked from
  - b. would work from
  - c. would work farm
  - d. would work for
- 4) This means that people \_\_\_\_\_ weekends
  - a. may have splits
  - b. may have split
  - c. may have splitting
  - d. might have split
- 5) Working until 6pm means eight hours extra, \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. which could become seven
  - b. which could become eight
  - c. which could become nine
  - d. which could become ten
- 6) the new working hours would, "allow Gambians \_\_\_\_\_ prayers
  - a. to devotee more time to
  - b. to devotees more time to
  - c. to devote more time to
  - d. to devotion more time to
- 7) grow what \_\_\_\_\_ we grow for a healthy and wealthy nation
  - a. we eat an eat what
  - b. we eat to eat what
  - c. we eat then eat what
  - d. we eat and eat what
- 8) Many workers are worried that the changes are going \_\_\_\_\_ for them
  - a. to create problems
  - b. to create problems
  - c. to create problems
  - d. to create problems
- 9) Gambia's economy and \_\_\_\_\_ have collapsed
  - a. in for a structure
  - b. inner structure
  - c. in fast structure
  - d. infrastructure
- 10) Gambia is the smallest nation on \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the Africa continent
  - b. the African continent
  - c. the African continental
  - d. the African incontinent

Gambia introduces 3-day weekend – 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2013

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## LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130124-weekends.html>

The president of Gambia has (1) \_\_\_\_\_ workers will have three-day weekends starting from February 1st. President Yayha Jammeh has added Friday to the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday and Sunday. He wants people to farm, (3) \_\_\_\_\_. However, he also announced that government employees would work from 8am to 6pm Mondays to Thursdays. In addition: "Schools, banks (4) \_\_\_\_\_ places are free to work on Saturdays." This means that people may (5) \_\_\_\_\_, and work an extra 10 hours a week. Government workers currently work from 8am to 4pm. Working until 6pm means eight hours (6) \_\_\_\_\_ become ten if they have to work on Saturdays too.

The president said the new working hours would, "allow Gambians to devote more time to prayers, social (7) \_\_\_\_\_". He said people could, "go back to the land and grow what (8) \_\_\_\_\_ we grow for a healthy (9) \_\_\_\_\_". Gambia's 'Freedom Newspaper' criticised the president's idea. It said the three-day weekend, "is going to [have a bad] effect on the economy and the country. Many workers...are worried that the changes are (10) \_\_\_\_\_ problems for them." The paper added: "Gambia's economy and infrastructure have (11) \_\_\_\_\_ Jammeh's poor leadership." Gambia is the smallest nation on (12) \_\_\_\_\_, with a population of just 1.8 million.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130124-weekends.html>

1. Which workers will have three-day weekends?

---

2. When will the 3-day weekends start?

---

3. What day has been added to the regular weekend?

---

4. How many hours extra will workers have to work on Tuesdays?

---

5. At what time do government workers finish work at the moment?

---

6. What kind of activities will Gambians have more time to do?

---

7. What kind of nation does the president want?

---

8. What effect does a newspaper think the longer weekend will have?

---

9. What else has collapsed in Gambia, apart from infrastructure?

---

10. What's the population of Gambia?

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# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130124-weekends.html>

1. Who will have a 3-day weekend?
  - a) good workers
  - b) private workers
  - c) shop workers
  - d) public workers
2. The president wants people to farm, pray and...
  - a) be firm
  - b) rest
  - c) play
  - d) work
3. When will public workers finish work from Feb 1st?
  - a) 4pm
  - b) 5pm
  - c) 6pm
  - d) 8pm
4. What are schools free to do?
  - a) work on Saturdays
  - b) close on Thursdays
  - c) open on Sundays
  - d) start earlier on Wednesdays
5. Why might workers have to work 10 extra hours?
  - a) if they work for the president
  - b) if they take Wednesdays off
  - c) if they work Saturdays
  - d) if they take the 3-day weekend
6. Gambians will have more time for prayers, socialising and ...
  - a) working
  - b) agriculture
  - c) the beach
  - d) shopping
7. Where can Gambians go back to?
  - a) bed
  - b) work
  - c) restaurants
  - d) the land
8. The president wants a healthy and \_\_\_\_\_ nation.
  - a) wealthy
  - b) stealthy
  - c) homeless
  - d) heartless
9. What kind of effect could the weekend have on the economy?
  - a) an unknown
  - b) a delayed
  - c) a bad one
  - d) a positive one
10. What is the population of Gambia?
  - a) 1.6 million
  - b) 1.8 million
  - c) 8.1 million
  - d) 6.1 million

# ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130124-weekends.html>

## **Role A – Gambia president**

You think a three-day weekend is a very, very good idea. Tell the others three reasons why. You think the idea of no weekend or a 5-day weekend is totally crazy. You think there is a big difference between a two-day weekend and a three-day weekend.

## **Role B – 2-day-weekend supporter**

You think a two-day weekend is a very, very good idea. Tell the others three reasons why. You don't think it's good to change the weekend. People are used to a two-day weekend. You are worried the economy will become bad if people work less.

## **Role C – No-weekend supporter**

You think having no weekend is a very, very good idea. Tell the others three reasons why. The world economy is in bad condition. Everyone must work harder to make the country strong. People who want weekends are weak and lazy. No weekends also means higher salaries.

## **Role D – 5-day-weekend supporter**

You think a five-day weekend is a very, very good idea. Tell the others three reasons why. People work too much. They will be refreshed after a 5-day weekend and work hard. Everyone will have more family time and time to exercise and study. The country will be very happy.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130124-weekends.html>

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

<b>week</b>	<b>end</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>• starting</li><li>• regular</li><li>• rest</li><li>• free</li><li>• split</li><li>• extra</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• social</li><li>• eat</li><li>• idea</li><li>• create</li><li>• thanks</li><li>• 1.8</li></ul>
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# WEEKENDS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130124-weekends.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Weekends 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.

## WEEKENDS 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 'weekend'?
- c) How much do you like weekends (and why)?
- d) What do you think of the idea of a three-day weekend?
- e) What would you do with an extra day off?
- f) Do you think Gambians are better with the president's idea?
- g) Which are better – weekends now or weekends as a child?
- h) Why do you think Gambia's president is changing the weekend?
- i) What would life be like without weekends?
- j) What do you think of the idea of a split weekend?

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## WEEKENDS DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Is it a good idea for people to go back to the land and grow things?
- c) Would your country be healthier and wealthier with a 3-day weekend?
- d) What are the bad things about a 3-day weekend?
- e) How do you feel the evening before the weekend is over?
- f) Why is it "three-day weekend" and not "three-days weekend"?
- g) What would happen to the world if we had a 5-day weekend?
- h) Do you do everything you want to do at the weekends?
- i) Should people have fun in the week instead of waiting for the weekend?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Gambia's president?

## **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. \_\_\_\_\_

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130124-weekends.html>

The president of Gambia has said all (1) \_\_\_\_\_ workers will have three-day weekends starting from February 1st. President Yayha Jammeh has added Friday to the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ weekend of Saturday and Sunday. He wants people to (3) \_\_\_\_\_, rest more and pray. However, he also announced that government employees would work from 8am to 6pm Mondays to Thursdays. In (4) \_\_\_\_\_: "Schools, banks and all other affected places are free to work on Saturdays." This means that people may have (5) \_\_\_\_\_ weekends, and work an extra 10 hours a week. Government workers currently work from 8am to 4pm. Working until 6pm means eight hours extra, which could (6) \_\_\_\_\_ ten if they have to work on Saturdays too.

The president said the new working hours would, "allow Gambians to (7) \_\_\_\_\_ more time to prayers, social activities and agriculture". He said people could, "go back to the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and grow what we eat and eat what we grow for a healthy and (9) \_\_\_\_\_ nation". Gambia's 'Freedom Newspaper' criticised the president's idea. It said the three-day weekend, "is going to [have a bad] (10) \_\_\_\_\_ on the economy and the country. Many workers...are worried that the changes are going to create problems for them." The paper added: "Gambia's economy and infrastructure have collapsed (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to Jammeh's poor leadership." Gambia is the smallest nation on the African (12) \_\_\_\_\_, with a population of just 1.8 million.

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

- |     |                 |                |              |                    |
|-----|-----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 1.  | (a) publicity   | (b) public     | (c) publican | (d) published      |
| 2.  | (a) unusual     | (b) regular    | (c) double   | (d) Thursday       |
| 3.  | (a) frame       | (b) firm       | (c) form     | (d) farm           |
| 4.  | (a) subtraction | (b) addition   | (c) division | (d) multiplication |
| 5.  | (a) division    | (b) break      | (c) apart    | (d) split          |
| 6.  | (a) normal      | (b) addition   | (c) become   | (d) take           |
| 7.  | (a) devote      | (b) remote     | (c) demote   | (d) vote           |
| 8.  | (a) ocean       | (b) office     | (c) land     | (d) workplace      |
| 9.  | (a) welt        | (b) wealthiest | (c) wealth   | (d) wealthy        |
| 10. | (a) effect      | (b) effective  | (c) effects  | (d) effectively    |
| 11. | (a) thanks      | (b) because    | (c) pleased  | (d) welcome        |
| 12. | (a) continent   | (b) country    | (c) county   | (d) incontinent    |

# SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130124-weekends.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. The ntidspee of Gambia
2. the larureg weekend
3. government oyspmelee
4. In aniotdid
5. other edfteafc places
6. nrructyel work from 8am

## Paragraph 2

7. devote more time to rrpaeys
8. social activities and gculrariet
9. etahylw nation
10. cdiiecsir (UK) / zidicrceit (UK) the idea
11. Gambia's mnooyec and infrastructure have collapsed
12. the African nietcnnto



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130124-weekends.html>

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

- ( ) activities and agriculture". He said people could, "go back to the land and grow what we eat and
- ( ) idea. It said the three-day weekend, "is going to [have a bad] effect on the economy and the
- ( ) extra 10 hours a week. Government workers currently work from 8am to 4pm. Working until 6pm
- ( ) from February 1st. President Yayha Jammeh has added Friday to the regular weekend of Saturday and Sunday. He wants people
- ( ) The president of Gambia has said all public workers will have three-day weekends starting
- ( ) "Gambia's economy and infrastructure have collapsed thanks to Jammeh's poor
- ( ) work from 8am to 6pm Mondays to Thursdays. In addition: "Schools, banks and all other affected
- ( **1** ) The president said the new working hours would, "allow Gambians to devote more time to prayers, social
- ( ) places are free to work on Saturdays." This means that people may have split weekends, and work an
- ( ) eat what we grow for a healthy and wealthy nation". Gambia's 'Freedom Newspaper' criticised the president's
- ( ) country. Many workers...are worried that the changes are going to create problems for them." The paper added:
- ( ) means eight hours extra, which could become ten if they have to work on Saturdays too.
- ( ) leadership." Gambia is the smallest nation on the African continent, with a population of just 1.8 million.
- ( ) to farm, rest more and pray. However, he also announced that government employees would

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130124-weekends.html>

1. workers three weekends public have day All will -.

---

2. more and pray He wants people to farm , rest.

---

3. people may This have means split that weekends.

---

4. eight means 6pm until Working extra hours.

---

5. too to work If on they Saturdays have.

---

6. devote more Allow time Gambians to to prayers.

---

7. land what Go the grow eat to and we back.

---

8. bad effect on the economy and the country Have a.

---

9. create them changes to for The going problems are.

---

10. on continent is nation African Gambia smallest the the.

---

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130124-weekends.html>

The president of Gambia has said all *public / publicity* workers will have three-day weekends starting from February 1st. President Yayha Jammeh has added Friday to the *irregular / regular* weekend of Saturday and Sunday. He wants people to *farm / form*, rest more and pray. However, he also *announced / announcement* that government employees would *works / work* from 8am to 6pm Mondays to Thursdays. In *addition / subtraction*: "Schools, banks and all other *affected / infected* places are free to work on Saturdays." This means that people may have *spilt / split* weekends, and work an extra 10 hours a week. Government workers *currency / currently* work from 8am to 4pm. Working until 6pm *means / meanings* eight hours extra, which could become ten if they have to work on Saturdays too.

The president said the new working hours would, "allow Gambians to *devotion / devote* more time to prayers, *social / socially* activities and agriculture". He said people could, "go back to the *landing / land* and grow what we eat and eat what we *grow / growth* for a healthy and *wealth / wealthy* nation". Gambia's 'Freedom Newspaper' *criticized / criticism* the president's idea. It said the three-day weekend, "is going to [have a bad] *effect / affect* on the economy and the country. Many workers...are worried that the changes are going to create problems for *they / them*." The paper added: "Gambia's economy and infrastructure have *collapsed / collapses* thanks to Jammeh's poor leadership." Gambia is the smallest nation on the African *continent / country*, with a population of just 1.8 million.

**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/1301/130124-weekends.html>

Th\_ pr\_s\_d\_nt \_f G\_mb\_\_ h\_s s\_\_d \_ll p\_bl\_c w\_rk\_rs  
w\_ll h\_v\_ thr\_\_-d\_y w\_\_k\_nds st\_rt\_ng fr\_m F\_br\_\_ry  
1st. Pr\_s\_d\_nt Y\_yh\_ J\_mm\_h h\_s \_dd\_d Fr\_d\_y t\_ th\_  
r\_g\_l\_r w\_\_k\_nd \_f S\_t\_rd\_y \_nd S\_nd\_y. H\_ w\_nts  
p\_\_pl\_ t\_ f\_rm, r\_st m\_r\_ \_nd pr\_y. H\_w\_v\_r, h\_ \_ls\_  
\_nn\_\_nc\_d th\_t g\_v\_rnm\_nt \_mpl\_y\_\_s w\_\_ld w\_rk fr\_m  
8\_m t\_ 6pm M\_nd\_ys t\_ Th\_rsd\_ys. \_n \_dd\_t\_\_n:  
"Sch\_\_ls, b\_nks \_nd \_ll th\_r\_ff\_ct\_d pl\_c\_s \_r fr\_\_t\_  
w\_rk \_n S\_t\_rd\_ys." Th\_s m\_\_ns th\_t p\_\_pl\_ m\_y h\_v\_  
spl\_t w\_\_k\_nds, \_nd w\_rk \_n \_xtr\_ 10 h\_\_rs \_ w\_\_k.  
G\_v\_rnm\_nt w\_rk\_rs c\_rr\_ntly w\_rk fr\_m 8\_m t\_ 4pm.  
W\_rk\_ng \_nt\_l 6pm m\_\_ns \_\_ght h\_\_rs \_xtr\_, wh\_ch  
c\_\_ld b\_c\_m\_t\_n \_f th\_y h\_v\_ t\_ w\_rk \_n S\_t\_rd\_ys  
t\_\_.

Th\_ pr\_s\_d\_nt s\_\_d th\_ n\_w w\_rk\_ng h\_\_rs w\_\_ld,  
" \_ll\_w G\_mb\_\_ns t\_ d\_v\_t\_ m\_r\_ t\_m\_ t\_ pr\_y\_rs,  
s\_c\_\_l \_ct\_v\_t\_\_s \_nd \_gr\_c\_ltr\_". H\_ s\_\_d p\_\_pl\_  
c\_\_ld, "g\_b\_ck t\_ th\_ l\_nd \_nd gr\_w wh\_t w\_ \_\_t \_nd  
\_\_t wh\_t w\_ gr\_w f\_r \_ h\_\_lthy \_nd w\_\_lthy n\_t\_\_n".  
G\_mb\_\_'s `Fr\_\_d\_m N\_wsp\_p\_r' cr\_t\_c\_s\_d th\_  
pr\_s\_d\_nt's \_d\_\_. \_t s\_\_d th\_ thr\_\_-d\_y w\_\_k\_nd, " \_s  
g\_\_ng t\_ [h\_v\_ \_\_ b\_d] \_ff\_ct \_n th\_ c\_n\_my \_nd th\_  
c\_\_ntry. M\_ny w\_rk\_rs...r\_ w\_rr\_\_d th\_t th\_ ch\_ng\_s  
\_r\_ g\_\_ng t\_ cr\_\_t\_ pr\_bl\_ms f\_r th\_m." Th\_ p\_p\_r  
\_dd\_d: "G\_mb\_\_'s \_c\_n\_my \_nd \_nfr\_str\_ct\_r\_ h\_v\_  
c\_ll\_ps\_d th\_nks t\_ J\_mm\_h's p\_\_r\_l\_\_d\_rsh\_p." G\_mb\_\_  
\_s th\_ sm\_ll\_st\_n\_t\_\_n \_n th\_ fr\_c\_n\_c\_nt\_n\_nt, w\_th \_  
p\_p\_l\_t\_\_n \_f j\_st 1.8 m\_ll\_\_n.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130124-weekends.html>

the president of gambia has said all public workers will have three-day weekends starting from february 1st president yayha jammeh has added friday to the regular weekend of saturday and sunday he wants people to farm rest more and pray however he also announced that government employees would work from 8am to 6pm Mondays to thursdays in addition "schools banks and all other affected places are free to work on Saturdays" this means that people may have split weekends and work an extra 10 hours a week government workers currently work from 8am to 4pm working until 6pm means eight hours extra which could become ten if they have to work on Saturdays too

the president said the new working hours would "allow Gambians to devote more time to prayers social activities and agriculture" he said people could "go back to the land and grow what we eat and eat what we grow for a healthy and wealthy nation" gambia's 'freedom newspaper' criticised the president's idea it said the three-day weekend "is going to [have a bad] effect on the economy and the country many workers...are worried that the changes are going to create problems for them" the paper added "gambia's economy and infrastructure have collapsed thanks to jammeh's poor leadership" gambia is the smallest nation on the african continent with a population of just 18 million

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130124-weekends.html>

The president of Gambia has said all public workers will have three-day weekends starting from February 1st. President Yahya Jammeh has added Friday to the regular weekend of Saturday and Sunday. He wants people to farm, rest more and pray. However, he also announced that government employees would work from 8am to 6pm Mondays to Thursdays. In addition: "Schools, banks and all other affected places are free to work on Saturdays." This means that people may have split weekends, and work an extra 10 hours a week. Government workers currently work from 8am to 4pm. Working until 6pm means an extra hour, which could become ten if they have to work on Saturday too. The president said the new working hours would, "allow Gambians to devote more time to prayers, social activities and agriculture". He said people could, "go back to the land and grow what we eat and eat what we grow for a healthy and wealthy nation". Gambia's 'Freedom Newspaper' criticised the president's idea. It said the three-day weekend, "is going to [have a bad] effect on the economy and the country. Many workers... are worried that the changes are going to create problems for them." The paper added: "Gambia's economy and infrastructure have collapsed thanks to Jammeh's poor leadership." Gambia is the smallest nation on the African continent, with a population of just 1.8 million.







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

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

**4. 3-DAYER:** Write a magazine article about 3-day weekends. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against them.

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 the president of Gambia. Ask him three questions about weekends. Give him three of your opinions. 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 T    c T    d F    e T    f F    g F    h T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1. workers     | a. employees |
| 2. regular     | b. usual     |
| 3. free to     | c. able to   |
| 4. split       | d. divided   |
| 5. extra       | e. more      |
| 6. agriculture | f. farming   |
| 7. wealthy     | g. rich      |
| 8. create      | h. make      |
| 9. poor        | i. bad       |
| 10. nation     | j. country   |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Public (government) workers
2. February 1st
3. Friday
4. Two
5. 4pm
6. Social activities (and praying and agricultural activities)
7. A healthy and wealthy one
8. A bad effect
9. The economy
10. 1.8 million

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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