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Level 5

Mothers face workplace discrimination

10th August, 2013

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1308/130810-workplace_discrimination-5.html

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Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1308/130810-workplace_discrimination-5.html

More than one in four British mothers who returned to work feel discriminated against, according to a survey from a legal firm. Researchers asked 1,975 women about their work experiences before and after giving birth. Most of the women had never complained as they suspected it would be a waste of time and damage their careers. Mothers complained about not being promoted and of junior employees moving faster up the career ladder. Another common complaint was their ideas being considered less useful than those of colleagues without children.

Many managers and employers disagree with the survey. A British industry association said: "We don't recognise the picture painted here. Our experience is that...businesses are better than ever at managing maternity leave and reintegrating mothers on their return." A politician said the government is making sure that businesses use all women's talents "throughout the organisation, from boardroom to the shop floor". Lawyer Kiran Daurka was shocked that women did not talk about discrimination. She said employers avoided the issues and buried their heads in the sand.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-23600465>
<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland/top-stories/discrimination-against-new-mothers-rife-1-3034121>
<http://news.sky.com/story/1125885/one-in-four-mums-feel-work-discrimination>

MATCHING

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1308/130810-workplace_discrimination-5.html

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. More than one | a. promoted |
| 2. according to | b. without children |
| 3. before and after | c. a survey |
| 4. a waste | d. giving birth |
| 5. not being | e. in four |
| 6. moving faster up the | f. less useful |
| 7. being considered | g. of time |
| 8. colleagues | h. career ladder |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. employers disagree | a. use all women's talents |
| 2. We don't recognise the picture | b. leave |
| 3. businesses are better | c. to the shop floor |
| 4. maternity | d. painted here |
| 5. making sure that businesses | e. the issues |
| 6. from boardroom | f. with the survey |
| 7. employers avoided | g. in the sand |
| 8. buried their heads | h. than ever |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1308/130810-workplace_discrimination-5.html

(1) _____ British mothers who returned to work feel discriminated against, (2) _____ from a legal firm. Researchers asked 1,975 women about their work experiences before and after giving birth. Most of the women (3) _____ as they suspected it would be a waste of time and (4) _____. Mothers complained about (5) _____ and of junior employees moving faster up the career ladder. Another common complaint was their ideas being considered (6) _____ those of colleagues without children.

Many managers and employers (7) _____ survey. A British industry association said: "We don't recognise (8) _____ here. Our experience is that...businesses are better than ever at managing maternity leave and reintegrating mothers (9) _____." A politician said the government is (10) _____ businesses use all women's talents "throughout the organisation, (11) _____ the shop floor". Lawyer Kiran Daurka was shocked that women did not talk about discrimination. She said employers (12) _____ and buried their heads in the sand.

DISCRIMINATION SURVEY

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1308/130810-workplace_discrimination-5.html

Write five GOOD questions about discrimination 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.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

