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## **Level 5**

### **Mechanic works 75 years to break record**

**21st July, 2017**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170721-mechanic-5.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170721-mechanic-5.html>

A worker in the USA has broken the world record for the longest-serving airline mechanic. Azriel Blackman, 91, started work in 1942, aged 16. He has been working for 75 years. His starting salary was 50 cents an hour. The nonagenarian works five days a week, starting at 5am at JFK International Airport. His age means his employers stop him doing some tasks for safety reasons. He is not allowed to climb up ladders, drive on the runways or use certain tools. He is responsible for assessing the maintenance needs of the airplanes that park in the hangars overnight.

Mr Blackman has been recognized for his dedication. His employer dedicated a plane in his honor. His signature was painted on the front of an American Airlines Boeing 777. The 91-year-old received a standing ovation from his colleagues at the naming ceremony. Blackman said: "I'm proud to be a mechanic." Reporters asked him about the secret behind his record. He said: "When you like what you do, it's not work." When asked about retirement, he said: "That's not up to me. That's up to the man upstairs...When I get up in the morning...I say 'thank you for another day'."

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

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170721-mechanic-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                       |                         |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. A worker in the USA has broken     | a. for safety reasons   |
| 2. the longest-serving                | b. for 75 years         |
| 3. He has been working                | c. overnight            |
| 4. His starting salary                | d. airline mechanic     |
| 5. stop him doing some tasks          | e. the airplanes        |
| 6. He is not allowed to               | f. the world record     |
| 7. assessing the maintenance needs of | g. climb up ladders     |
| 8. park in the hangars                | h. was 50 cents an hour |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. recognized for his         | a. behind his record |
| 2. His signature was painted  | b. ceremony          |
| 3. received a standing        | c. man upstairs      |
| 4. at the naming              | d. ovation           |
| 5. I'm proud to be a          | e. dedication        |
| 6. asked him about the secret | f. to me             |
| 7. That's not up              | g. mechanic          |
| 8. That's up to the           | h. on the front      |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170721-mechanic-5.html>

A worker in the USA (1) \_\_\_\_\_ world record for the longest-serving airline mechanic. Azriel Blackman, 91, started (2) \_\_\_\_\_, aged 16. He has been working for 75 years. His starting salary was 50 (3) \_\_\_\_\_. The nonagenarian works five days a week, starting at 5am at JFK International Airport. His age means his employers stop him doing (4) \_\_\_\_\_ safety reasons. He is not allowed to climb up ladders, (5) \_\_\_\_\_ runways or use certain tools. He is responsible for assessing the maintenance (6) \_\_\_\_\_ airplanes that park in the hangars overnight.

Mr Blackman has been recognized (7) \_\_\_\_\_. His employer dedicated a plane in his honor. His signature was painted (8) \_\_\_\_\_ an American Airlines Boeing 777. The 91-year-old received a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ from his colleagues at the naming ceremony. Blackman said: "I'm proud to be a mechanic." Reporters asked him about the secret (10) \_\_\_\_\_. He said: "When you like what you do, it's not work." When asked about retirement, he said: "That's (11) \_\_\_\_\_. That's up to (12) \_\_\_\_\_  
...When I get up in the morning...I say 'thank you for another day'."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170721-mechanic-5.html>

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# WORKING AGE SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170721-mechanic-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about working age in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

