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Level 1 – 9th January, 2020

Finland gives parents 7-month parental leave

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200209-maternity-leave-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200209-maternity-leave-1.html>

Parents in Finland will get more time to spend with their babies. The government will give parents seven months of leave. This is almost double the amount of its current leave. New rules will give 164 days to each parent. Parents can give up to 69 of their days to their partner, so one parent could take nine months of leave. Single parents will get 328 days. Finland's current parental leave gives four months for maternity leave, and two months for fathers.

Finland said the rules are needed to help families. The government explained the importance of the rules. It wants to put the child "at the centre of family benefits, and promote wellbeing and gender equality". It wants to stop falling birth rates. Births in Finland have dropped. Last year saw the fewest babies born in the country since 1868. Sweden has the most leave. It gives each parent 240 days. The USA has no national paid leave for mothers or fathers.

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/02/05/world/finland-parental-leave-policy-trnd/index.html>
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/elanagross/2020/02/06/finlands-female-led-government-gives-men-and-women-nearly-seven-months-of-paid-parental-leave>
<https://www.npr.org/2020/02/05/803051237/finlands-women-led-government-has-equalized-family-leave-7-months-for-each-parent>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200209-maternity-leave-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. get more time to spend | a. to each parent |
| 2. give parents seven months | b. leave |
| 3. This is almost double | c. nine months |
| 4. New rules will give 164 days | d. of leave |
| 5. one parent could take | e. parental leave |
| 6. Single | f. with their babies |
| 7. Finland's current | g. parents |
| 8. four months for maternity | h. the amount |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. explained the importance | a. parent 240 days |
| 2. gender | b. birth rates |
| 3. It wants to stop falling | c. national paid leave |
| 4. Births in Finland have | d. babies |
| 5. Last year saw the fewest | e. of the rules |
| 6. Sweden has the | f. dropped |
| 7. It gives each | g. equality |
| 8. The USA has no | h. most leave |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200209-maternity-leave-1.html>

Parents in Finland will (1) _____ to spend with their babies. The government will (2) _____ months of leave. This is almost (3) _____ of its current leave. New rules will give 164 days to each parent. Parents can give up to 69 of their days (4) _____, so one parent could take nine months of leave. (5) _____ get 328 days. Finland's current parental leave gives four months (6) _____, and two months for fathers.

Finland said the rules are (7) _____ families. The government explained the (8) _____ rules. It wants to put the child "at the centre of family benefits, and promote wellbeing (9) _____". It wants to stop (10) _____. Births in Finland have dropped. Last year saw (11) _____ born in the country since 1868. Sweden has the most leave. It gives each parent 240 days. The USA has (12) _____ leave for mothers or fathers.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200209-maternity-leave-1.html>

Parents in Finland will get more time to spend with their babies. The government will give parents seven months of leave. This is almost double the amount of its current leave. New rules will give 164 days to each parent. Parents can give up to 69 of their days to their partner, so one parent could take nine months of leave. Single parents will get 328 days. Finland's current parental leave gives four months for maternity leave, and two months for fathers. Finland said the rules are needed to help families. The government explained the importance of the rules. It wants to put the child "at the centre of family benefits, and promote well-being and gender equality". It wants to stop falling birth rates. Births in Finland have dropped. Last year saw the fewest babies born in the country since 1868. Sweden has the most leave. It gives each parent 240 days. The USA has no national paid leave for mothers or fathers.

PARENTAL LEAVE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2002/200209-maternity-leave-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about parental leave 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) _____

