

What's happening in the news this week?



Let's have a look at this week's poster!

12th - 18th September 2022

What can we do if we feel things aren't fair?

The Queen Elizabeth
Delivery Office



Let's look at this week's story



The UK is seeing many different workers taking the decision to strike (action taken against employers by refusing to work for a period of time), with rail workers, barristers, call centre staff and postal workers all exercising their right to strike over low pay or poor working conditions. Disagreements are at their highest point in five years, driven by competition for workers, living cost increases and falling wages. One of the groups striking are postal workers, with around 115,000 Royal Mail employees walking out on strike in disputes over pay in August and early September.

Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).



How does it make me feel?



sad	angry	happy	confused	excited	worried	shocked	afraid
despondent disconsolate dismal doleful downhearted forlorn gloomy melancholic miserable woeful wretched	aggrieved annoyed discontented disgruntled distressed exasperated frustrated indignant offended outraged resentful vexed	beaming buoyant cheery contented delighted enraptured gleeful glowing joyful	addled baffled bemused bewildered disorientated indistinct muddled mystified perplexed puzzled	animated elevated enlivened enthusiastic exhilarated exuberant thrilled	agitated anxious apprehensive concerned disquieted distraught distressed disturbed fretful perturbed troubled uneasy	astonished astounded disconcerted distressed dumbfounded horrified staggered startled stunned surprised	alarmed apprehensive daunted fearful frantic horrified petrified terrified

This week's story looks at events related to ...





Read through the useful information below, which explains more about why many workers are choosing to take this course of action.

Why are workers striking?

The UK is seeing many different workers taking the decision to strike (action taken against employers by refusing to work for a period of time), with rail workers, barristers, call centre staff and postal workers all exercising their right to strike over low pay or poor working conditions. Disagreements are at their highest point in five years, driven by competition for workers, living cost increases and falling wages.

The price of everything's going up, people are having to do more and more overtime. People are running themselves into the ground in order to feed their families and working seventy hour weeks just to make ends meet - it's ridiculous.

Postal worker, Hannah Carrol, explaining her reasons for taking strike action.



Pictured above: A postal worker on the picket line outside a Royal Mail customer service point last month. **Source:** EPA

What happens during a strike?

During a strike, workers agree with their union (a group that workers choose to join, who officially confirm the strike) on a vote. The workers then vote and if most of the workers decide to strike, they have to give their bosses at least 14 days' notice and announce the changes they hope to see at work. Hopefully in this time, bosses agree to meet and discuss. If they don't, the strike goes ahead and the workers either do not turn up at work, or form a 'picket line', which is where they stand outside, often with placards and banners, and draw attention to their concerns. It is hoped that at some point bosses meet with themselves and the unions to discuss the concerns and requests of their workers.



What do you think are the pros and cons of taking this action?



Look at the resource below, where some children share some of the ways they have taken action.

"One day, at playtime, I noticed a boy in my class looking lonely and sad, with nobody to play with. The next day was the same and the next. Finally, I decided to ask him if he'd like to play. It was a little scary but I did it and we're now great friends!"

Santiago



"I wanted to learn to ride my bike. I kept telling my friends and family I was going to do it but I was always busy so didn't have much time to practise. One day, enough was enough. I went outside and practised and practised and practised. It took me most of the day but I did it!"

Ishaaq

"The litter in my local park was getting out of hand; it was everywhere. I decided to organise a litter pick. I then wrote to my local MP to explain the litter problem and ask if we could have some bins to solve it!"



Talia

"There were lots of things that were upsetting and worrying me. They kept swirling in my head and I couldn't stop feeling this way. I was very grumpy at school and at home. I finally decided to tell my mum what was bothering me. I immediately felt better. We talked through each of my worries and it really helped."

Zara



"I love wild animals. I know many species of animal are endangered but I don't think there is much I can do about it."

Teddy

For each child, can you explain what their action is?



Look at the resource below, sharing examples of famous strikes of the past.

1926 – The General Strike

The aim of this strike was to force the government to act and prevent mine owners from reducing miners' wages whilst increasing their hours. The strike was called by TUC (Trade Union Congress) in May 1926. In support, huge numbers from other industries stayed off work, including bus, rail and dock workers and people with printing, gas, electricity, building, iron, steel and chemical jobs.

The strike lasted for nine days and the impact on the UK was huge. After nine days, the TUC called off the strike and people returned to work. The miners, though, continued to strike alone.

By the end of November, most were back down the mines, working for less pay and longer hours. Others remained unemployed for many years.



2002 – Firefighters' Strike

The Fire Brigades Union (FBU) voted for strike action to secure better pay for firefighters. They demanded a salary increase of 39%.

The first few weeks of planned action were postponed whilst salary was negotiated. No agreements were reached so on Wednesday 13th November 2002, a two-day strike began. The armed forces provided emergency cover during this period.

Following the strike, many discussions and negotiations between FBU and government officials continued. The dispute ended with the firefighters accepting a pay increase deal worth 16%.



1984 - 1985 – The Minors' Strike

The National Coal Board announced 20 pits in England would have to close with the loss of 20,000 jobs. A nationwide strike began in March 1984, with more than half of the country's miners leaving work.

For many towns and villages, the strike was divisive, with tensions growing between those who chose to strike and those who chose to continue working.

People who chose to strike earned no money and were not eligible for benefits as industrial action was seen to be illegal. They had to survive on savings and handouts.

During the strike, coal production dropped by more than half but the government had stockpiled.

In March 1985, the National Union for Mineworkers narrowly voted to end industrial action and the strike was over.

2019 – Global Climate Strikes

Millions of children from over 150 different countries took part aiming to put pressure on governments and decision-makers to do more about climate issues.

On Friday 20th September 2019, children took strike action and didn't attend school. Instead, many of the young people took part in protests, wanting their voices to be heard ahead of the United Nations' Climate Change Summit, which started three days later.



Have you ever taken strike action or know anyone who has?

What can we do if we feel things aren't fair?

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Reflection



There are likely to be times in our lives when we feel things are not fair. There are many ways we can voice our opinions; striking is one action that groups of workers can choose to take.





Democracy

People who strike have decided to take action to help their voice be heard. We should listen to the voice of others and remember we also have a voice and have the right to use it.





UN Rights of a Child



We have the right
to share what
we learn, think and
feel unless it harms
other people.



Useful vocabulary



Disputes

An argument or disagreement between people or groups.

One of the groups striking are postal workers, with around 115,000 Royal Mail employees walking out on strike in **disputes** over pay in August and early September.

Driven

The act of being motivated by someone or something.

Disagreements are at their highest point in five years, **driven** by competition for workers, living cost increases and falling wages.

Employee

Someone who is paid to work for someone else.

...with around 115,000 Royal Mail **employees** walking out on strike.

Employer

A person or organisation that people work for.

A strike is when a group of workers feel that something is unfair and choose to stop working with the aim of **employers** changing things.

Opinions

Thoughts or beliefs about something or someone.

There are many ways we can voice our **opinions**; striking is one action that groups of workers can choose to take.

Strike

A refusal to work for a period of time, often because of **disagreements in pay, working conditions or job losses**.

The UK is seeing many different workers taking the decision to **strike**.

Can you use them in your writing this week?



Pictured: Mack Rutherford (UK) is officially the overall youngest person to circumnavigate the world by aircraft solo. **Source:** Guinness World Records @GWR Twitter page.

Youngest pilot to fly solo around the world

Mack Rutherford has officially been awarded the world record for being the youngest person to circumnavigate the world by aircraft, solo. Mack, who was 16 years old at the time, took off from Sofia, in Bulgaria, on 23rd March 2022. 5 months, 52 countries and 5 continents later, Mack returned to Sofia on 24th August 2022, completing his flight around the Earth. He celebrated his 17th birthday in the small, single-engine aircraft

that would deliver him four Guinness World Record titles! The experienced aviator was 17 years and 64 days old when he landed at the end of his trip around Earth, enabling him to take the title from the previous holder - his sister, Zara. Mack, whose nickname is Mack Solo, said, "I believe young people can make a difference...I believe it is never too early to work towards your dreams and you shouldn't limit yourself by others' expectations."

Largest dinosaur ever found in Europe?

Palaeontologists have unearthed the remains of what could be the largest dinosaur ever found in Europe! The skeleton of a 25-metre-long dinosaur was found in a backyard in the city of Pombal, Portugal. Researchers, from Spain and Portugal, working on the site say that in recent weeks, they have unearthed the vertebrae and ribs of a possible brachiosaurid sauropod, or brachiosaurus. These animals would have stood about 12m

tall and weighed up to 70 tonnes, the largest land animals that have ever existed. These giraffe-like gigantic creatures could feast on the most succulent parts right at the top of trees, that other dinosaurs could not reach. "It is not usual to find all the ribs of an animal like this, let alone in this position, maintaining their original anatomical position," Elisabete Malafaia, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Lisbon, said.



Pictured: Palaeontologists from Spain and Portugal working on the site in the city of Pombal **Source:** Instituto Dom Luiz (Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon, Portugal)

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



Solar panel canal covers

Solar panels are to be installed over large sections of canals in California, USA. The pilot project that will cover canals with solar panels could help the state save water by reducing evaporation and produce more greener energy. Project Nexus is set to launch in mid-October and will result in a 152-metre portion of canal in Hickman and over 1609 metres in Ceres being covered with large batteries of solar cells. It is hoped that the plan can be scaled up to save billions of gallons of

otherwise evaporated water, while powering millions of homes! This is a first for the US, but similar projects are already running in India. The state has 6,400 kilometres of canals. Experts estimate that if all of the Golden State's canals were covered with solar panels, they could produce 13 gigawatts of renewable power. One gigawatt is enough to power 750,000 homes, so that would be enough power for 9.75 million households.



Pictured: An image showing what the solar panel canal covers will look like.
Source: Solar AquaGrid @SolarAquaGrid Twitter page.

Last week's topic:

Should animals be allowed to work?



Yes, because it can be very helpful in times when humans can't help. Some areas can't be reached by humans therefore animals can be used as substitutes.

Olivia - Age 10

No, I don't think that animals should be used to work. They are pets and it's our job to look after them.


Fred - Age 7

Yes, they should. If they want to. Some animals enjoy their jobs and should be allowed to do them.

For example - sheepdogs.

Zac - Age 9

Let us know what you think about this week's news?

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TAKEHOME



What can we do if we feel things aren't fair?



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Things to talk about at home ...

- Talk about a time when you felt something was unfair. What did you do about it? Did your action have a good outcome?
- Can you think of different types of action you could take if you thought awareness needed to be raised about an issue? E.g., taking strike action, protesting, writing letters/posting on social media. Which do you think is most effective and why?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

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