

STRIKES : We all love strikes ...

In this resource from The Economist, learn some key vocabulary on the subject of **strikes**.

Research any new words and make some notes on them.

Try to use any new vocabulary next time you speak English with a colleague.



Strike =
when a group of workers refuse to work as a form of protest. Usually strikes are organised by a group of workers called a **union**



Union =
An organisation formed by workers. It works to represent the workers' interests and protect their rights



Strikes: what are the consequences?

**Been forwarded this by a colleague?**

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TOPICAL TALK HEADLINES

Strikes across the world cause significant disruptions as doctors, nurses, aviation staff, nuclear power station workers and rail workers stop working. But what about those who are impacted by these strikes? How do they affect the lives of everyday people, both positively and negatively? In this lesson you will consider the consequences of strikes and debate which professionals should be allowed to strike.



Listening

Step 2: Recalling

I remember simple instructions

Step 7: Active listening

I show I am paying attention

Step 12: Compare views


I compare different points of view



Knowledge

I know why strikes happen and the consequences of them.

In July 2025, strikes occurred globally.

-  In **France**, air traffic controller strikes disrupted flights.
-  In **Italy**, baggage handlers caused a 24-hour disruption at airports.
-  In **Nigeria**, government hospitals were affected by a 7-day nurses' strike.
-  The **UK** experienced significant disruptions due to strikes by resident doctors and rail workers.

People strike over issues like pay and working conditions. Strikes can have both positive and negative outcomes. For example, pay rises may not keep up with the cost of living.



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How could a strike affect you?

Imagine that **50%** of your teachers decide to go on strike because they are unhappy about their pay. They won't come into schools for the next four days.

THINK :
What impact could this strike have on each of the five people in the target opposite?



ROUND 1

Free sort: choose how to sort the consequence cards on your table



Strikes can result in stronger job security and improved contracts for employees



Strikes can cause those who are striking to lose pay, as some do not get paid while they are on strike



Strikes can improve working conditions by securing better health and safety measures or more reasonable hours



Strikes do not always lead to change



Strikes can cause financial losses for companies, like the cost of hiring temporary staff



Strikes can lead to workers getting better pay



Strikes can cause widespread disruption to health appointments or school could be cancelled



Strikes can lead to financial losses for the public due to cancelled events and travel delays



ROUND 2

Now order the consequence cards on your table like this:



Smallest
impact

Biggest
impact



Think about how the consequence might impact different people.
For example, you, businesses or government. Remember, the
impact can be good or bad.



Strikes can have good and bad consequences, so whether they should go ahead is often debated.



In groups you will be given a strike to discuss.

Half of your group will act in role as people who **support** the strike.

The other half will act in role as people who are **against** the strike.

Think:
Should this strike go ahead?

Yes or no?
Why or Why not?

Should this strike go ahead? Yes or no?



Doctors' and
nurses' strikes



Rail strikes



Aviation strikes



Teacher strikes

Use the strike facts to support your argument



Create an equal amount of for and against reasons.

For example, postal workers' strikes;

For 

- I am a postal worker who wants better pay
- I am a union worker who wants happier workers

*“Postal workers strikes **should** go ahead because ...”*

Against 

- I am a customer who doesn't receive my packages
- I am a post-office manager who loses customers

*“Postal workers strikes **shouldn't** go ahead because...”*



Which statement do you agree with the most?



- 1 A strike should be as disruptive as possible; that's how you get what you want.
- 2 Any jobs that help someone should never be able to strike.
- 3 Strikes should be a last resort.

Hard-working doctors and
nurses demand fair pay
for long hours

Patients' health in danger,
as doctors and nurses walk out

?

What is the
difference between
these headlines?

?

How might people react
differently to strikes depending
on the news they see?

?

How can headlines
influence public trust
during a strike?

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