Eiffel Tower staff swap sparks strike

LEVEL A2/B1

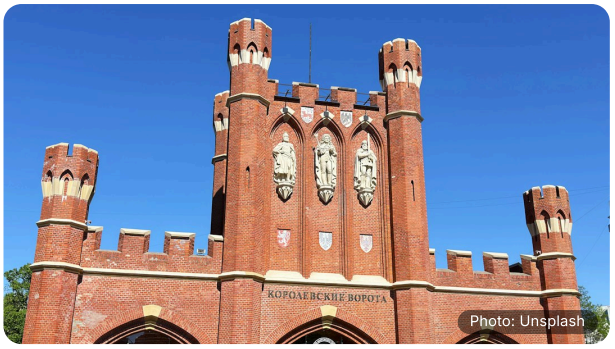


Photo: Unsplash

I. WARM-UP

1. Have you visited a famous landmark? What was it like?
2. What rules at work or school feel fair to you? Why?
3. When should visitors follow local rules in your country?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

investigation
an official check to find out what happened and why

delegation
a group of people who visit or act for a larger group

strike
a stop in work by staff to show protest or demand change

apologise
to say sorry for causing a problem or hurt

unacceptable
not OK or not allowed

equality
the idea that people should be treated the same

values
important ideas that guide how a group behaves

manager
a person who leads a team or place of work

III. READING

The Eiffel Tower's operator has launched an investigation after female staff were replaced by male colleagues during a visit on Saturday. A delegation of around 100 people linked to the BAPS Hindu group toured the Paris landmark.

Some women said they were asked to leave their places of work and told not to cross certain areas. Staff felt humiliated and called a strike on Monday, so the tower closed for a day. Ariel Weil, the president of the company that runs the tower, blamed managers for being overzealous.

He called the incident "totally shocking and unacceptable", and said rules must ensure it never happens again. The operator said the limits on women did not match its values, like equality. BAPS later wrote that the trip was arranged to avoid disruption and apologised for any pain caused.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **BBC News***: "Investigation after female staff at Eiffel...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did the Eiffel Tower close on Monday?
2. Who visited the tower on Saturday?
3. What were some female staff told during the visit?
4. Who said the incident was totally shocking and unacceptable?
5. What did BAPS say after the visit?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever seen men and women kept separate? Where and how?
2. How should managers respond when staff feel humiliated?
3. What does equality at work mean in your country?
4. When is an apology enough, and when is action needed?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Uncountable nouns

Uncountable nouns name things we cannot count (no plural -s). Use words like 'some', 'much' or the noun alone. Examples use single, non-plural forms.

"Staff said they felt **humiliation** *after the visit."*
"Visitors should always show **respect** *for staff."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Choose the correct option in each sentence.

1. Staff need (information / informations) before a big visit. _____
2. Good managers give their team useful (advices / advice). _____
3. Women and men should get equal (pay / pays). _____
4. Tourists can ask for (helps / help) at the entrance. _____
5. An investigation needs good (evidence / evidences). _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.

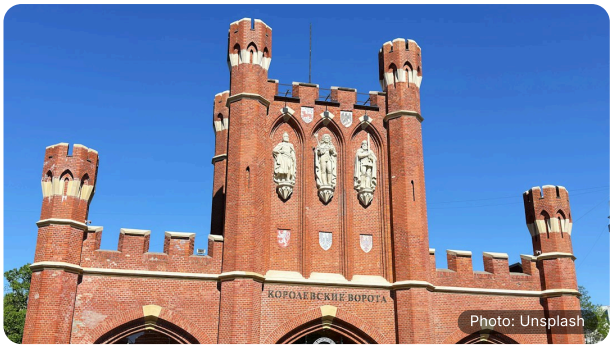


Photo: Unsplash

I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 8–10 minutes vocabulary, 10–12 minutes reading, 10 minutes comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 10 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach names and terms on the board: Eiffel Tower, Paris, BAPS, delegation, strike, investigation.
- During reading, set a gist task (why the tower closed), then scan for who visited and what changed for staff. The story involves unfair treatment of women during a religious group's visit: keep discussion respectful, start in pairs, and let students talk about the news rather than their own lives.
- For differentiation, pair stronger students to summarise the timeline; support others with a sequencing strip of four events.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Use think–pair–share. If students lack examples, prompt with gyms, schools, or religious sites, then ask how they felt.
2. Elicit simple actions (listen, apologise, change rules). Put key verbs on the board and ask for one action with a reason.
3. Clarify equality with quick examples (same pay, same chances). Have pairs compare two jobs in your city or school.
4. Make two columns on the board: ‘apology’ and ‘action’. Small groups add examples from the text and life, then report back.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Role-play: In pairs, act as a manager and a staff rep; draft and read a 60-word statement to staff.

Writing: Write an 80-word email to a friend explaining why the tower closed and how people reacted.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Uncountable nouns

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

TEACHERS ONLY

These answers are for teachers only. Please do not share this page with students.

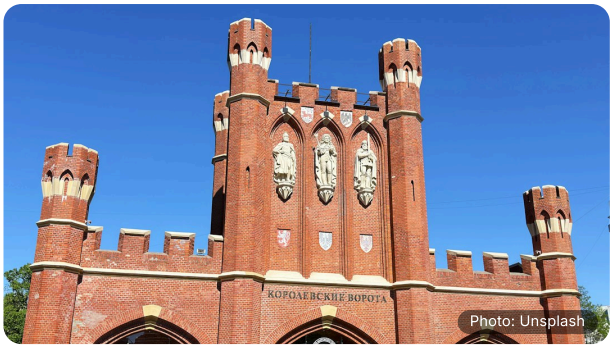


Photo: Unsplash

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did the Eiffel Tower close on Monday?
   Because staff went on strike after the treatment of women.
2. Who visited the tower on Saturday?
   A delegation linked to the BAPS Hindu group.
3. What were some female staff told during the visit?
   They were asked to leave and not cross certain areas.
4. Who said the incident was totally shocking and unacceptable?
   Ariel Weil.
5. What did BAPS say after the visit?
   It apologised and said the trip was arranged to avoid disruption.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Choose the correct option in each sentence.

1. Staff need (information / informations) before a big visit. **information**
2. Good managers give their team useful (advices / advice). **advice**
3. Women and men should get equal (pay / pays). **pay**
4. Tourists can ask for (helps / help) at the entrance. **help**
5. An investigation needs good (evidence / evidences). **evidence**

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Uncountable nouns name things we cannot count (no plural -s). Use words like 'some', 'much' or the noun alone. Examples use single, non-plural forms. (Examples constructed.)

"Staff said they felt **humiliation** *after the visit."*
"Visitors should always show **respect** *for staff."*