

French railway strikes

Source: <https://www.yahoo.com/news/france-hit-second-day-rail-chaos-strike-bites105849701--business.html>

TASK 1 READ THE ARTICLE AND UNDERLINE AS MANY WORDS AND PHRASES RELATED TO RAIL TRAVEL AS YOU CAN FIND.

TASK 2 MATCH THE WORDS IN COLUMN A TO THE WORDS THEY COLLOCATE WITH IN COLUMN B AS SHOWN IN THE EXAMPLE. TRY TO REFRAIN FROM REFERRING BACK TO THE ARTICLE.

A	B
to withstand	reform
to meet, to miss, to set	the test of time, competition, severe weather
to have, to find a way out of	a letter, an issue, an audience, a question to someone
to push through, to adopt, to call for, to put in place	a deadline
to address	a plan
to have, to take over, to pay back, to run up, to write off	a row
to come up with, to stick to, to drop, to change, to put forward	a debt

CAN YOU THINK OF AT LEAST ONE MORE COLLOCATION WITH EACH WORD IN **BOLD**?

TASK 3 LOOK AT THE SENTENCES BELOW. WHAT IS MEANT BY THE PHRASES IN *ITALICS*? CHOOSE THE RIGHT ALTERNATIVE.

- Striking rail workers *locked horns* with President Emmanuel Macron's government in a dispute over reforming the state-owned SNCF railways.
 - they began to argue or fight
 - they were holding each other tightly so that no one was able to move
- More signalmen and conductors *walked out* on Wednesday than a day earlier.
 - they left a meeting with the management in to show their disapproval of the upcoming reforms
 - they suddenly left their spouses
 - they stopped working because of the disagreement with their employer

3. The French government is paving the way for privatizing SNCF.
 - a) the government is rebuilding the road network
 - b) the government's current actions make something else possible
4. Macron is treading where past presidents have either failed or steered clear.
 - a) took a series of actions, usually of a particular type carefully and intentionally
 - b) avoided something that seemed likely to cause problems
5. Other protest movements are also simmering.
 - a) are growing slowly stronger over a period of time and could become more serious at any moment
 - b) are being cooked at a temperature slightly below boiling

TASK 4 USE THE EXPRESSIONS FROM TASK 3 IN YOUR OWN SENTENCES.

DISCUSS WITH A PARTNER:

- WHO DO YOU STAND WITH, THE FRENCH PRESIDENT OR THE STRIKING WORKERS?
- WOULD YOU GO ON STRIKE?
- WHAT OTHER PROTESTS HAVE YOU HEARD OF RECENTLY ?