

Headline English

2012, week6 *Learn English through reading on current world affairs*

1 **Tuition fees**

2 original at

3 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/jan/27/how-will-tuition-fees-affect-students>

4 A huge social experiment begins in September. Many of England's
5 universities and colleges will start charging £ 9,000 tuition fees a year
6 plus real interest rates for their students. That's an increase from the
7 existing fee of £3,300 a year with no interest charged. The money will
8 have to be borrowed. Many students will have to borrow even more than
9 that to pay for their living expenses. As a result, very few students will
10 escape leaving university with debts of less than £40,000.

11 This will make the English system of university education the single most
12 personally expensive one in the world. It seems hard not to believe there
13 will not be some impact on the character of England's student population.

14 The government's hope is that the students will not bat an eyelid, and
15 carry on applying in the same numbers. Universities in their turn will be
16 insulated from what would otherwise have been savage cuts in their
17 income; the new regime strengthening their crucial autonomy rather than
18 weakening it.

19 Graduates may, on the face of it, have mountainous debts, but they will
20 only be required to repay £9 in every £100 they earn over £21,000 for 30
21 years, and after that they will stop paying.

22 Yet, even if one is in favour of tuition fees in principle, these are
23 significant increases. It is hard to imagine they will simply be shrugged
24 off.

Questions

- 1) What is, in the British or US context, the difference between a college and a university?
- 2) Describe the differences between the old English tuition fee system and the new one that is to be implemented next September.
- 3) Why are, according to the text, many students expected to have to borrow more than the total equivalent of the new tuition fees?
- 4) Does the government expect the number of people applying for university to drop?
- 5) What is, according to the text, the government's argument for the change in tuition fees?
- 6) Does the article suggest that the consequences of the change for students will be insignificant?
- 7) What is your opinion on tuition fees? Would you like tuition fees to be introduced in the Czech Republic (as the current government is proposing)? What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of (university) tuition fees?

Vocabulary

interest (line 7) – a charge for the use of credit or borrowed money

bat an eyelid (line 14) – showing no emotion, acting as though nothing were unusual

in their turn (line 15) –for their part, as far as they are concerned

shrug off (line 23) – to disregard; ignore, not pay attention to

You can find additional explanation and more examples to help you understand and use English words and phrases at <http://dictionary.reference.com>, <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/>, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/> or <http://www.ldoceonline.com/>

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Tým jazykové skupiny Spěváček:

