

# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2107/210707-courage.html>

The Queen in the United Kingdom has given the country's highest possible award for civilians to its National Health Service (NHS). The Queen gave the NHS a George Cross. This is a special medal for heroism and bravery. The award was given because of the heroic efforts doctors, nurses and care staff made during the coronavirus pandemic. The Queen hand wrote a personal message to the NHS. She said she gave the award "with great pleasure, on behalf of a grateful nation". She added: "This award recognises all NHS staff....Over more than seven decades, and especially in recent times, you have supported the people of our country with courage, compassion and dedication."

Many workers in the NHS are happy that they have been recognised by the Queen for their services. However, many others said they would prefer a pay rise. The NHS has been on the front line in the fight against COVID-19 in the UK. There has been great public support for a pay rise for nurses, but the government only gave them a 1% increase. There were over 60 protests in the UK over the weekend for better pay and conditions. A doctor said: "We demand funding for a safe NHS, fair pay and respect for staff." A workers' union leader said: "The best way to show appreciation for health workers who have gone 'above and beyond' is to give them a decent pay rise, urgently."

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/jul/05/queen-awards-george-cross-to-nhs-to-mark-70-years-of-public-service>  
<https://uk.style.yahoo.com/queen-gives-courageous-dedicated-nhs-221400461.html>  
<https://morningstaronline.co.uk/article/b/health-unions-demand-better-nhs-workers-anniversary>

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 1. award      | a. Kind feelings and concern for other people who are having a bad or sad time. |
| 2. civilian   | b. Great bravery.   |
| 3. heroism    | c. A feeling of happy satisfaction and enjoyment.                               |
| 4. pandemic   | d. A prize or other thing given to honor an achievement.                        |
| 5. pleasure   | e. Feeling or showing thanks for kindness.                                      |
| 6. grateful   | f. A person not in the armed services or the police force.                      |
| 7. compassion | g. There being a disease all over a whole country or the world.                 |

## Paragraph 2

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 8. prefer        | h. The things that affect the way people live or work, especially their safety or health. |
| 9. front line    | i. Money given by an organization or government for a particular purpose.                 |
| 10. protest      | j. Knowing and enjoying the good qualities of someone or something.                       |
| 11. conditions   | k. The area that is closest to danger or to the action.                                   |
| 12. funding      | l. A deep liking for someone because of their abilities or achievements.                  |
| 13. respect      | m. Groups of people meeting somewhere to say they are unhappy about something.            |
| 14. appreciation | n. Like one thing or person better than another or others.                                |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2107/210707-courage.html>

## 1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. Health workers in the UK got the highest possible civilian award. **T / F**
2. The medal the health workers got was for bravery and heroism. **T / F**
3. The British Queen typed a message for the health workers. **T / F**
4. The Queen recognised health workers for over 70 years service. **T / F**
5. Many UK health workers would like a pay rise instead of a medal. **T / F**
6. Health workers have been on the front line fighting COVID-19. **T / F**
7. The British public thinks a 1% pay rise is enough for nurses. **T / F**
8. A union leader said the medal was the best way to thank nurses. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <b>award</b>        | a. like better      |
| 2. <b>civilians</b>    | b. happiness        |
| 3. <b>heroic</b>       | c. acknowledged     |
| 4. <b>pleasure</b>     | d. private citizens |
| 5. <b>compassion</b>   | e. proper           |
| 6. <b>recognised</b>   | f. prize            |
| 7. <b>prefer</b>       | g. kindness         |
| 8. <b>funding</b>      | h. thanks           |
| 9. <b>appreciation</b> | i. brave            |
| 10. <b>decent</b>      | j. money            |

## 3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. the country's highest possible            | a. and dedication      |
| 2. This is a special medal for               | b. efforts             |
| 3. The award was given because of the heroic | c. a 1% increase       |
| 4. The Queen hand wrote                      | d. line                |
| 5. courage, compassion                       | e. a personal message  |
| 6. happy that they have been recognised      | f. award               |
| 7. The NHS has been on the front             | g. rise                |
| 8. the government only gave them             | h. for health workers  |
| 9. The best way to show appreciation         | i. heroism and bravery |
| 10. give them a decent pay                   | j. by the Queen        |



# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2107/210707-courage.html>

- 1) Who is the George Cross usually given to?
  - a) royalty
  - b) health workers
  - c) soldiers
  - d) civilians
- 2) What is the George Cross for, besides heroism and courage?
  - a) fighting
  - b) bravery
  - c) hard work
  - d) innovation
- 3) How did the Queen write a message to health workers?
  - a) she dictated it
  - b) on a smartphone
  - c) on an old typewriter
  - d) by hand
- 4) Who did the Queen say she gave the award on behalf of?
  - a) doctors and nurses
  - b) her family
  - c) a grateful nation
  - d) the NHS
- 5) How long has Britain's NHS been going?
  - a) over 60 years
  - b) over 80 years
  - c) over 50 years
  - d) over 70 years
- 6) What would many NHS workers like instead of a medal?
  - a) longer holidays
  - b) better PPE
  - c) a pay rise
  - d) no overtime
- 7) What kind of line does the article say the NHS has been on?
  - a) the front line
  - b) the baseline
  - c) the centre line
  - d) the hard line
- 8) How much of a pay rise did the nurses get?
  - a) 3%
  - b) 2%
  - c) 1%
  - d) 45
- 9) How many protests were there over the weekend?
  - a) just under 60
  - b) over 60
  - c) about 60
  - d) exactly 60
- 10) Who said health workers should get a "decent pay rise, urgently"?
  - a) a workers' union
  - b) a nursing group
  - c) surgeons
  - d) hospital patients

# COURAGE DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'health service'?
3. What is the national health service like in your country?
4. What do you think of giving a medal to a health service?
5. How heroic and brave have nurses and doctors been in the pandemic?
6. Who is braver, a nurse or a politician?
7. Have you ever received an award or a medal?
8. Have you ever been brave or courageous?
9. What do you know about the British Queen?
10. What advice do you have for nurses and doctors?

*UK Queen honours health service for its courage – 7th July, 2021*  
Thousands more free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](https://www.breakingnewsenglish.com)

---

# COURAGE DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'courage'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Would you prefer a medal or a pay rise?
15. How much of a pay rise should nurses get?
16. Should nurses or politicians be paid more?
17. Would you be a good nurse?
18. What three adjectives would you use to describe nurses?
19. When was the last time you went 'above and beyond'?
20. What questions would you like to ask Britain's Queen?