Work and Jobs

The names of jobs and workplaces, how we are paid and hired, and the language of contracts and forecasts, from A1 to C2.

A1–C2 · English Vocabulary, Lesson 31

What do you do? · a salary or a wage · made redundant

Jobs *A1–A2*

doctor	nurse
teacher	farmer
cook	shop assistant
police officer	firefighter
builder	mechanic
pilot	office worker
vet	electrician

She's a nurse (not She's nurse): use a or an before a job

Places of work *A1–A2*

hospital	school
shop	farm
factory	office
restaurant	garage
bank	hotel
post office	building site
shop floor	workshop

work in a factory · work at the hospital · work for a bank

Pay and getting a job *B1–B2*

Kinds of work: a job, work, a career, a trade, a profession

Pay: a salary, a wage, overtime, a bonus, a pay rise, earn a living

People: employer, employee, colleague, staff, self-employed, freelance, apprentice

Applying: a vacancy, apply for, an application form, a CV, a shortlist, an interview, references

Phrasal verbs: take on, set up, fill in, turn down, hand in your notice

Idioms: learn the ropes, pull your weight, get your foot in the door, go the extra mile

*She **applied for** the **vacancy**, got through the **interview**, and now she's **learning the ropes**.*

earn money · win a prize

Contracts and forecasts *C1–C2*

The contract: probationary period, notice period, garden leave, severance pay, statutory

Ending a job: dismissal, unfair dismissal, be made redundant, resign, retire

Kinds of contract: permanent, fixed-term, zero-hours, an apprenticeship, a sole trader

Euphemisms: let someone go, restructuring, downsizing, between jobs

Register: dismiss / sack / fire · resign / quit / pack it in · remuneration / pay

Idioms: a dead-end job, climb the career ladder, a jack of all trades, bread and butter, back to the drawing board

*After the **restructuring**, forty staff were **made redundant**; the rest were offered **fixed-term contracts**.*

dismissal = the person · redundancy = the job

Talking about work

- *What do you do? I'm an engineer.*
- *Where do you work? At the hospital.*
- *I work part-time, four days a week.*
- *I'm self-employed. I work for myself.*

Common mistakes

- ~~I have a new work.~~ → I have a new **job**.
- ~~I win 1,000 euros a month.~~ → I **earn** …
- *carrera* (university) = **degree**; a **career** = working life
- *fábrica* = **factory** (fabric = cloth)

Words with a past

- **freelance**: Scott's "free lances", hired knights (1819)
- **hire**: Old English *hȳr*, wages
- **sinecure**: Latin *sine cura*, without care
- **workaholic**: work + alcoholic (1960s)

My new words

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