



Chapter 4, Work

Answer the following questions in details.

1. Do you work, or have you ever worked?
2. What is the most important in a job?
3. What are some popular professions? Why are they popular?
4. How can someone find a job?
5. Do schools prepare young adults for work adequately?
6. Is it a good idea to have students do compulsory community work?
7. How important are language skills for employability?
8. Are there any jobs that are typically outsourced to developing countries?
9. Why are there fewer people who learn blue collar professions these days?
10. What are the advantages and disadvantages of being self-employed?
11. Should men go on paternity leave when they have a baby?
12. Do young people get any assistance from the government to start work?
13. What kinds of discriminations can be present at the workplace?
14. Should unemployed people be helped more to find a job?
15. How demanding is shift work?
16. Is it all right if elderly people stay at work rather than retiring?
17. Do automatization pose a threat to human work opportunities?
18. Should every citizen receive a base salary from the government regardless of having a workplace or not?
19. What will work conditions be like in a hundred years?

Give detailed reasons why you agree or disagree with the following statements.

1. Most people don't care much about their work – they only do it for the money.
2. The government shouldn't make many laws about employment.
3. Trade unions are very important.
4. A lot of people don't want to work at all.
5. A great supervisor can motivate workers.
6. Entrepreneurship is better than working for a company.
7. Lifelong learning is key to a successful career.
8. Flexible working hours can make a job more enjoyable.
9. Telework has reached its full potential.
10. Robots can do the most demanding types of work now.
11. Using computers can reduce the possibility of errors.
12. In the future more people will work in agriculture.
13. The colonization of Mars could bring a lot of new work opportunities both on Earth and in space.
14. It is all right that people in developing countries want to migrate to more developed countries for better jobs and better living.
15. There is no more slavery and exploitation in the world.
16. Working in a foreign country is challenging.
17. Job hoppers are good for companies.



Writing

1. You saw an advertisement for a part time summer job at a restaurant. Apply for the job. Give three pieces of information about yourself. Tell them why you want the job. Ask about the conditions and payment.
2. You have just read a blog entry about the advantages and disadvantages of working abroad. You decide to post your own opinion. Are there many opportunities to find such work? What are the benefits and the challenges? Give an example about a friend who moved to another country.
3. A survey was published about job preferences in your country. You decide to write to your pen-friend about it. How many people were polled? What age groups? What did the survey find? What were the most popular jobs? Ask your friend about the situation in his country.
4. Your friend is a high school senior. She has no idea what she would like to do after school. She thinks that by attending a university she can postpone making a decision. Her parents want her to find a job if she can't make up her mind. Write her an e-mail with your recommendations.
5. Some people think that they should stick to one job for all their life while others think that it's better to move on whenever there is a good opportunity. Write an essay about these opposing views and give your own opinion.
6. A national newspaper published an article about discrimination at a company where it is standard procedure not to employ minorities, older and disabled people. They asked readers to share their opinion. Write them about the local situation. Give reasons why you agree or disagree with some forms of discrimination.
7. If you could be the leader of your country, what would you do to end unemployment? Is it possible to give a job to everyone? What if some don't want to work at all? Should they be forced to work?
8. Multinational companies often require that workers communicate in a foreign language between departments. Do you think it's right to force workers not to use their mother tongue even when there are no foreign employees involved? Write a blog entry about it.
9. With frequent changes in technology many jobs become obsolete. How can people keep up with the changes? What are the challenges? Is it all right when some have to learn new skills every few years?
10. Workers at a local foreign owned company went on strike for higher wages and better work conditions. Write your American pen-friend about it. Who organized the strike? What did they demand? How did the company leadership react? Did the media give an unbiased coverage? Ask your friend if there are such strikes in her country as well.

