

Work



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Some useful expressions

Positive or neutral

- What do you do for a living?
- To make a living (it's difficult to make a living as a freelance photographer)
- Minimum wage: the lowest legal amount of money which can be paid to workers
- To commute / a commuter: How long does it take you to commute to work?
- To apply for a job
- To take/get a job (offer)
- To be self-employed
- White collar workers (office workers) / blue-collar workers (factory and manual)
- To have a fixed income
- To be the main breadwinner
- A trade union
- To run a small business
- To be promoted/ to get a promotion
- To ask for a raise
- To enjoy (generous) fringe benefits (sth that you get from working which is not in the form of money (company car, free health insurance))
- The perks of a job: privileges granted to employees in addition to their salaries such as company cars, pension plans, reserved parking space. Example: I took the job because there were a lot of perks
- Your resume/ your CV
- workforce

Working hours

- To work shifts ... to be on the night shift
- To be on flexi-time
- To work flexible hours
- To work full time/part time
- To have a regular, steady job
- To have a temporary/ seasonal job
- To work nine-to-five
- To do/work overtime: Do you get paid extra for doing overtime?
- To do casual work
- Working conditions

- Work-life balance

Negative

- To go/be on strike
- To get the sack/ to be sacked/to sack sb
- To be fired (more formal than to be sacked)
- To be dismissed (more formal than to be fired)
- To be made redundant (no longer needed)
- The company had to take cutbacks, so you're made redundant
- To be a workaholic
- The downside of working....
- To be underpaid
- To be unemployed / to be on the dole
- Unemployment benefits
- To be stuck behind a desk

Giving up work

- To retire
- To give up work (in order to look after your children)
- To quit your job
- To resign
- To be on / to take maternity leave
- To be on/ to take sick leave
- To take early retirement
- To have/take/get a day off
- To take unpaid leave

Some more useful phrases to talk about work

- To develop professionally
- To gain work experience
- To show initiative
- To be highly motivated
- To work under pressure
- To be well qualified
- To have job satisfaction
- To be an expert in the field
- To be approachable
- To work tirelessly
- To be in charge of...
- To have to deal with (people, complaints...)
- To be inexperienced
- To be competent

Phrasal verbs:

- Our company **closed down**. We were all made redundant (stop operating)
- Then, one day, I woke up and thought: "I am going to **set up** my own business" (start a business , organization..)
- Santander Bank is planning to **take over** Pravia Bank(take control of..)
- He was so brilliant that he could afford to **turn down** several offers of work (not accept an offer, a request)
- Nokia is **bringing out** new products all the time (produce and start to sell a new product)

Collocations

- Do business (with sb)/
- go somewhere on business
- Reach an agreement
- Make/take a decision (about sth)
- Have/make a complaint (about sth)
- Have/gain/get experience in/of sth/doing

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Many Thanks!

