

Live Lesson Notes

Jobs

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What you will learn

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Some useful Links

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Essential Vocabulary

What's the difference between JOB and WORK?

Job (n.) Countable

I have two **jobs** and I like both of them.

Work (n.) Uncountable

I have a lot of **work** to do

We can make 'work' countable by adding 'a piece of' - the same way we make other words countable like news, advice, information

I have **a piece of** work / advice / news / information for you

We can also use 'work' as a countable noun when talking about art or possibly literature.

This is **a work of art** by Picasso (*Countable*)

His **works** are great. (*Countable*)



Collocations

Work is also a verb (v.)

To work hard

To work **part time** / **full time**

Work from home = to work remotely = I like working virtually

I have a **well paid** job / **badly paid** job

A **white collar** job = *indoors, office job (banker)*

A **blue collar** job = *outdoors, manual job (mechanic)*

I **work shifts** (*work specific hours of the day*)

As a doctor I sometimes have to work the **night shift**

It's **arduous work** = *difficult / hard*

It's **rewarding work** = *you enjoy it and it is satisfying*

This is a **sterling piece of work** = *fantastic*

This is a **shoddy piece of work** = *terrible, low quality*

I know this report is **shoddy**, but I was up all night **burning the midnight oil** (*working late into the night*) all to **meet my deadlines**, and I know it's not **up to scratch** (*good enough*), but please **give me some slack** (*give me a break, take some pressure off me!*)

Phrasal Verbs

*Phrasal verbs are very common in spoken English.
Basically it is where the meaning of a verb is changed by adding a preposition*

For example:

To speak = *to talk, say something*

To speak up = *to speak more loudly*

To put = *to place something somewhere*

To put off = *to delay something*

Here are some more examples of phrasal verbs that can be used when talking about jobs.

I **put in** a lot of work (=to do)

I have **taken on** too much work (=start / accept)

Let's **get down to** work (=begin)

What job do you do?

I work **as a** _____ (teacher, builder, banker...)

I work **in** _____ (sales/ marketing/education...THE FIELD)

I work **in a** _____ (hospital, school, bank..PLACE)

I work **for** _____ (Amazon, a multinational company....)

What do you like about your job?

I love **the fact that** ___ I can

Well, it's good because **I get to** _____

What I really like about my job is _____

What would be your ideal job? Why?

My ideal / target / dream job is **to work as a** _____ (carpenter, astronaut ...)

I wish I worked _____

I would love to be a/an _____

I long to be a / an _____

Listening Practice

Watch the video and answer the first question.

1. What is my ideal job?

Also try to fill in the gaps below with the correct collocation.

2. Put on a _____

3. To my _____

4. The adrenaline _____

5. Financial _____

6. It's more of a _____ than a passion

Answers at the bottom of the page

[Watch a full grammatical analysis of this sample answer here](#)

Idioms about Jobs

Here are a number of idioms that can be used when talking about jobs and work.

This job **suits me down to the ground** (=it's 100% match / perfect for me)

She never **does a stroke of work** (=she is so lazy, does the least work possible)

She doesn't **pull her weight** (=she is too lazy)

I like to **pull my weight** (=to work hard, do what I am responsible for)

He **made light work of it** (=he did it easily)

This job is a **cushy number** (=it's an easy job)

It's not a great job, but at least I can **get a foot in the door** (=start working in a company - with a view to getting a higher position there)

I have hit a **glass ceiling** (=invisible barrier), I can't go any further in this company

I **have a lot on my plate** (= I am very busy)

Student's Questions

Keith, tell us about an awkward moment at your work

I'd like to tell you about a time when I took my boss for a meeting but the people we met didn't **turn up** (=to appear)

Now, this is **going back quite a while**.

It **must have been** or about six years ago.

I was working as a project manager at that time, for an educational institution and I was organising a project where we helped teachers in their schools and I had to go with my boss to meet a local government official.

What happened is, I was responsible for **setting up the meeting** and organising the discussion, the content, the agenda, and **all the follow up points**.

So, I **spent a lot of time meticulously working out the agenda**, setting up all the details, and I even agreed on the location, the date, but **absentmindedly**, I forgot to **double check** with the government official the day before, that the **meeting was still on**.

So, the day of the meeting, I got into car with my boss. We drove down to the government office. We arrived **just on time** and then said that we were ready to meet Mr X, but **we were told that** Mr X was not there

that he **wasn't aware** (*didn't know*) there was a meeting.

My boss said to me, 'did you telephone this morning to double check we had a meeting?'

And I was so embarrassed because I hadn't and it was **a rookie mistake** (=a mistake a beginner makes), like a beginner's mistake.

The first thing I should have done was to check the meeting.

I was so embarrassed because the meeting was cancelled.

It **turned out** to be **a total waste of time** for my boss who was rather angry and we drove back in complete silence to the office.

Listening Practice :Answers

1. I want to be an actor
2. Put on a play
3. To my surprise
4. The adrenaline rush
5. Financial instability
6. It's more of a whim