

Occupations 1

What is an occupation?

An **occupation** is the job that people do to earn money.

Here are some other words that we can use when talking about an occupation:

Profession: an occupation that requires special knowledge and training.

Employment: working for someone else to earn money

Self-employment: working for yourself to earn money.

Business: an occupation in which goods and services are produced, sold and exchanged for money.

Vocation: earning a living through a particular skill

1. Explain the meaning of “profession”. Now give 5 examples of a profession.
2. Explain the meaning of a “business”. Now give 5 examples of a business. Remember that a business person does not necessarily have to sell *things*. They could sell services such as advice.
3. What is the difference between being *employed* and *self-employed*?



Occupations 2

Categories of occupations

Occupations that require similar skills can be grouped together. Here are some of the groups:

Agriculture
Arts and entertainment
Computers
Construction
Design
Business
Community services
Education
Engineering
Government
Health care
Hospitality
Writing
Industry
Legal profession
Military
Religion
Sales
Sports
Transport
Tourism



Make a list called “Job categories”. Write the list down the page, and next to each category give two examples of jobs within this category.

Occupations 3

Questions about employment

1. At what age do people usually begin to work in your country?
2. At what age do people usually retire in your country?
3. Do you think women can have the same jobs as men?
4. Do you think it is more important to make a lot of money or to enjoy your job?
5. Would you like to do the same job all your life? why? Why not?
6. Do you think people over 65 can still work?
7. What are the qualities a good boss should have?
8. What makes a good job?
9. Would you like to attend a lot of meetings for your job?
10. Would you accept to work overtime? if so, would you like to be paid more or would you rather have days off?
11. Would you like to have to do a lot of paperwork?
12. Would you like to use a computer much?
13. Would you like to work with other people or would you rather work by yourself?
14. What makes a good worker?
15. Why are some jobs more popular than others?
16. What do you think is the most interesting job and what do you think is the most boring job?



Occupations 4: Match the job descriptions

1. Police Officer	a) person who drives a bus
2. Cook	b) person who teaches students
3. Waiter	c) person who makes and designs clothes
4. Fashion designer	d) works in a hospital and helps doctors
5. Movie director	e) person that can draw cartoons well
6. Pilot	f) rescues people from burning buildings and helps put out fires
7. Writer	g) person who drives a taxi
8. Cartoonist	h) someone who can sing well
9. Basketball player	i) works in a hospital and cures sick people
10. Bus driver	j) flies an aeroplane
11. Scientist	k) person who acts in a movie
12. Teacher	l) does the cooking in a restaurant
13. Journalist	m) takes people's orders in a restaurant and serves food
14. Doctor	n) person who reports news on TV, radio or newspaper
15. Nurse	o) someone who writes books and stories
16. Farmer	p) works in a laboratory and does experiments
17. Actor	q) someone who makes movies
18. Firefighter	r) person that can play basketball well
19. Singer	s) works on a farm and grows crops or looks after animals
20. Taxi driver	t) works in a police station and keeps people safe
21. Mechanic	u) person in the army who wears a uniform and has a gun
22. Engineer	w) works in an animal hospital and looks after sick animals
23. Soldier	w) repairs machines and vehicles such as cars and buses
24. Hairdresser	x) someone who designs and constructs buildings
25. Vet	y) someone who cuts and styles hair

Occupations 5

Character qualities for jobs

1. Match the words on the left with their definition on the right:

1. organized	a) waits calmly; doesn't get upset
2. energetic	b) on time
3. accurate	c) always tries to do the right thing
4. thorough	d) makes and invents new things
5. patient	e) can be trusted
6. responsible	f) hard working
7. co-operative	g) can change easily to fit in with others
8. punctual	h) works well with others
9. creative	i) is orderly; plans things carefully
10. flexible	j) eager and interested
11. reliable	k) is serious about the job
12. motivated	l) exact; without mistakes
13. disciplined	m) complete and detailed
14. committed	n) has good self-control

2. Choose four character qualities that you think are most important for being a good and reliable worker. Explain why you think these qualities are very important when working in a job.



Occupations 6

Discussion questions with a partner

Take turns to interview your partner, (one set of questions for each partner). Record the responses.

1. What's your father's job? What time does he start work?
 2. What does your mother do? What time does she finish work?
 3. What would you like to be when you leave school? Why?
 4. Which jobs do you think pay well? Give at least 3 examples.
 5. In which jobs do you have to wear a uniform? Give at least 3 examples.
 6. Would you prefer a job that pays well or a job you enjoy? Explain.
 7. Do you prefer working indoors or outdoors? Why? Name 3 outdoor jobs.
 8. Would you like to do any of them?
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1. What kind of office work does a secretary do?
 2. In which jobs might you need to work evenings and weekends?
 3. Which job would you never want to do? Why?
 4. Which three things are most important for you in a job?
 5. If you could have your own business, what would it be?
 6. In your opinion, what is the most boring job in the world?
 7. Who in your family or among your friends has the most interesting job? Explain why.
 8. Do you think professional sports player are overpaid? Explain.

Occupations 7

Guess the occupation

1. A _____ and a _____ work in a hospital or clinic and take care of you when you are ill.
2. An _____ designs buildings.
3. A _____ keeps an office, school or hotel clean and tidy.
4. Someone who works in a school classroom and helps students is called a _____.
5. A person who works in a court and can help people on trial is called a _____.
6. Someone who cuts and styles your hair to make it look good is called a _____.
7. Someone who helps you in a shop when you want to buy something is called a _____.
8. A person who works to stop crime is a _____.
9. A _____ works at the front desk of a building and welcomes visitors and answers the phone.

Answers (jumbled order): judge; nurse; cleaner; architect; receptionist; doctor; architect; teacher; hairdresser; policeman

Now write about the job you would like to do

What job would you like to do?

What do you like about this job?

What is the hardest thing about this job?

Why do you think you are suited to this job?

What training will you need to do?

Where would you like to work? Why?

Occupations 8

Write about occupations

Choose 5 different occupations. Make a table like this and write about the duties, the personal requirements, and your opinion of the job.

Job	Duties	Requirements	Opinion
Doctor	works in a clinic or hospital and looks after sick people	responsible, reliable, caring	stressful, responsible
Fire-fighter	puts out fires	physically fit, strong, brave, responsible	risky, dangerous
Engineer	designs and constructs tools, machines	a degree or qualification in science and maths, precise	difficult, important, useful

Examples of words to use for "requirements"

energetic; organized; computer skills; good communication skills; telephone skills; can work well in a team; physically fit; works well under pressure; reliable; hardworking; honest; accurate; patient; creative; tidy; careful; flexible; calm; brave; friendly

Examples of words to use for your "opinion"

well-paid; creative; demanding; dirty; badly paid; difficult; challenging; stressful; boring; easy; dangerous; requires hard work; interesting; repetitive; rewarding; useful