

Talk Time Topic: Jobs

Let's get started...

Think about many different kinds of jobs: doctors, teachers, farmers, firefighters, mail carriers, custodians, managers, cooks, pilots, salespeople, receptionists, etc. When we go to the supermarket, the bank, or to the shopping mall, we see people working. Do you have a job right now? Do you like your job? Have you had a lot of jobs in your life? People have jobs in order to make money to live. Some people work full-time, some people work part-time, and some people work at home. Jobs are a big part of our society and our lives.

Background:

Many years ago in America, people would have one or two careers during their life. Today, people often change careers six or seven times! For people who don't know what kind of job they want, there are many different kinds of tests they can take to help them decide. There are personality tests, and also tests that show you which career would be good for you. Sometimes these tests cost money and take a long time to do, but they can help you decide what kind of job you want!

Here are some Personality and Career Aptitude Tests:

Myers-Briggs Type Indicator - <http://www.myersbriggs.org/>

Career Key - <http://www.careerkey.org/>

Princeton Review - <http://www.princetonreview.com/cte/quiz/default.asp?careers=6>



In pairs for 5 minutes, ask and answer these questions:

- Think about your first job.
- Where did you work?
- What did you do?
- Why did you decide to work there?
- How much were you paid?
- Did you like your co-workers?
- Did you like your job?

Share your partner's answers with the group.



Discussion Questions:

Do you have a job right now? What do you do? Do you like your job?

How many jobs have you had in your life? What was your favorite job? What was your least favorite job?

If you could have any job in the world, what would you do and why?

What jobs are popular in your native country? Are these same jobs popular in America?

If you had enough money so you didn't have to work, what would you do? Would you decide to work anyway?

Different types of jobs pay different amounts of money. What job do you think should be the highest paying job in America? What job do you think should be the lowest paying job in America?

In America, a full-time job is usually 40 hours per week or more. Do people work more hours per week in America, or in your native country?

How many hours do you think people should work every week? How many hours are too many? How many hours are not enough?

Which do you prefer, working for a big company or working for a small company? Why?

In your native country, do men and women have the same jobs? Are there some jobs that only one gender is allowed to do? For example, can a woman be the president of a company? Can a man be a nurse?

In America, people choose their own career. Is this the same in your native country?

What is a job you would NEVER do? Why? Would you do this job if you were paid \$1 million dollars per year?

Which is more important to you, enjoying your job or making a lot of money?

Have you ever had more than one job at the same time? Was it difficult to have two/three/four different jobs?

Do you prefer to work outside or inside? Do you prefer to work early in the morning or late at night? Do you prefer to work with lots of people or by yourself?

Have you ever had a job where you had to travel? Would you like traveling for your job?

Would you ever take a career test to decide what kind of job you wanted to do?

New words and Idioms:

workers, career, personality, aptitude, company, gender, president, co-workers