

Job Satisfaction & Workplace Culture

Advanced ESL Student Worksheet • Discussion, Vocabulary & Grammar

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: _____

1. Job Satisfaction Discussion

Discuss the following questions with a partner or in small groups.

1. What gives you the most satisfaction in a job? Does your current job give you this satisfaction?
2. What would make your job more satisfying?
3. Does job satisfaction increase or decrease as you move up the career ladder?
4. Do you think younger or older workers have more job satisfaction?
5. Does working from home increase or decrease job satisfaction?
6. What kind of technological improvements would increase your job satisfaction?
7. How often do you work more hours than you are contracted to? Why does this happen? How does it make you feel? Have you ever missed an important social event because of work?
8. To what extent should workers remain loyal to the company they work for?

2. Job Satisfaction Vocabulary

Review the definitions below before completing the exercises that follow.

work-life balance (*noun*) — the distribution of time spent at work and personal time.

pace of life (*noun*) — the speed at which events or changes happen in life.

rat race (*noun*) — the endless, self-defeating, pointless, repetitive, stressful, fast-paced life of the modern world in which people compete with each other for power and money.

to take time off (*verb*) — to take a holiday/vacation away from work.

all work and no play (makes Jack a dull boy) (*proverb*) — without time off work to enjoy yourself, you become bored and boring.

flexitime (*noun*) — a scheme offered by companies to their staff that allows them to work their contracted hours at the times that best suit them.

A. Sentence Completion

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g., verb conjugation or plural noun).

1. Why don't you come out with us for a drink tonight? _____ is no way to live.
2. The best thing about _____ is that it allows you to avoid the stressful morning and afternoon rush hours.
3. We moved away from the city to the countryside to find a slower _____.
4. In today's fast-paced business world, many people dream of escaping the _____ by starting a business aligned with their passions.
5. I have far too much work to even think about _____ work.
6. The extra time that I have saved by working from home and not travelling to work every day has really helped to improve my _____.

B. Comprehension Questions

1. Do you feel you have a good work-life balance?
2. Do you prefer a fast or slow pace of life? Why?
3. Do you feel like you have been caught in a rat race?
4. When you take time off work, do you return relaxed?
5. Do you know anyone affected by all work and no play? Why does this happen to people?
6. Can flexible working help achieve a healthy work-life balance?

3. Adjectives in the Workplace

Complete the sentences with the adjectives below:

lucrative • skilled • manual • tedious • challenging • rewarding • repetitive

1. This job pays a high salary. It is very _____.
2. You need to have special training to do this job. It's _____ work.
3. I can see the good results of my work. It's quite _____.
4. I have to think very hard in my job. It's very _____.
5. I spend a long time doing the same things again and again. It's _____ work. Some people think it's boring, but I don't mind it.
6. I have to do a lot of boring things before I can start working on more interesting projects. That can be _____.
7. I work mostly with my hands in this job. It's _____ work.

Pair Work: Talk about your ideal job and a job you would hate doing. Use the adjectives from the previous task.

4. Workplace Expressions & Collocations

Choose the correct (and most natural-sounding) response to complete each sentence.

1. This job is too (**stressed-out** / **stressful**).
2. There's a lot of work, but I can (**deal** / **handle**) it.
3. I was (**hired** / **heard**) last month.
4. They (**fired** / **failed**) two of my co-workers, and I'm afraid I might be next.
5. I work (**at** / **in**) sales.
6. My (**commute** / **communion**) isn't so bad.
7. The company has a reputation for treating their (**employees** / **employed**) well.
8. I usually don't eat in the (**lunchroom** / **lunch-zone**). I go out to eat.
9. The dress (**code** / **cut**) is casual.
10. I'm thinking about (**quitting** / **stopping**) my job.

5. Final Reflection & Deep Discussion

Answer and discuss the following deeper questions:

1. What is the most important thing you look for in a job — salary, flexibility, or interest?
2. Have you ever had a difficult boss or coworker? How did you handle it?
3. Do you think it is better to have one career for life or to change careers? Why?
4. How do attitudes towards work differ between generations in your country?
5. What do you think the workplace will look like in 20 years?