



DESCRIBING JOBS



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Expemo code:
1BSC-B2BC-2EP7



1

Jobs and people

Study the jobs and say which ones the people below would be suitable for using the expression

He/she would make a good ...

accountant

company director

programmer

architect

electrician

sales representative

bricklayer

firefighter

secretary

builder

private detective

university lecturer

1. Paul isn't very outgoing, but he has a very analytical mind and is good at solving problems.
2. Sara is a very confident and outgoing person. She's not afraid of talking to strangers.
3. Marcel doesn't have much of an education, but he's very good with his hands.
4. Andy has very good observation skills and pays extreme attention to detail. He also has a love for adventure and is very brave.
5. Catherine is fascinated with buildings. She's quite creative and good at mathematics.
6. Mike doesn't have any qualifications, but he likes helping people and is not afraid of danger.
7. Shelly is very good with numbers. But she is a bit shy and generally prefers to work alone.
8. Daniel is his own boss. He can't imagine working for anybody else.



2

Describing jobs

Match the descriptions to their opposites.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. It's very tedious. | a. It's a piece of cake. |
| 2. It can be very stressful. | b. It's badly-paid. |
| 3. It's well-paid. | c. It's exciting and interesting. |
| 4. You work long hours. | d. It's usually very relaxing. |
| 5. It's very challenging. | e. It's very safe. |
| 6. It can be very hectic. | f. There's usually nothing to do. |
| 7. You meet lots of people. | g. You can go home early. |
| 8. It can be dangerous. | h. You don't need a degree. |
| 9. You need very good qualifications. | i. You feel very isolated. |

In pairs, take turns to describe a job from Exercise 1. Your partner must try to guess which job you are describing. Try to describe each job with at least two or three expressions.

3

Talking about work

Read the text below.

MY JOB

I work as a zookeeper. I'm responsible for feeding and caring for animals in a zoo. **It's also my job to** clean the animals' cages, report health problems and entertain visitors.

For this job, you need special qualifications, for example a degree in biology or zoology. Of course, you need to have a love for animals. Each species is different from the others and requires special attention and care. **You also need to be good at** keeping records because you have to collect a lot of data for each animal. And **you must be** outgoing because you need to conduct tours for visitors and answer their questions.

I find my job really interesting. I've always loved animals, so caring for animals feels more like a hobby than a job. But **it can get a bit** dirty and tedious sometimes, for example when you have to clean the cages. And **it can also be a little** dangerous, especially when animals get sick – they can hurt you! But on the whole, I really enjoy my work. I can't imagine doing anything else.

Photo by: Benchill

Would you like to work as a zookeeper? Why? Why not?

Now put the expressions in bold in the correct categories below.



What do you do?

I work as a . . .

What are your responsibilities?

What skills or qualifications do you need?

What's your job like?

Which expressions are followed by an -ing form? Which expression is followed by an infinitive?

4

Talk about your job

Match the expressions on the left with words on the right.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. I work as a | a. a degree in chemistry/an MBA/a certificate in teaching Spanish |
| 2. I'm responsible for | b. answering the phone/ cooking meals/training salesmen/ teaching children |
| 3. It's my job to | c. barman/sales manager/doctor/flight attendant/nurse/teacher |
| 4. For this job, you need | d. really fascinating/very interesting/so exciting/really motivating |
| 5. You need to be good at | e. sell houses/arrange meetings/design websites/repair cars |
| 6. The work can get a bit | f. selling/teamwork/talking to people/working with children |
| 7. I find my job | g. stressful/hectic/boring/dangerous/exhausting |

Work with a partner. Interview each other about your jobs. Use the questions below and your own ideas.

- What do you do?



- What are your responsibilities?
- What skills or qualifications do you need?
- What's your job like?
- Do you enjoy your work?

If you do not have a job or if you prefer not to talk about your work, your partner can interview you about somebody you know, for example a friend or family member.

- What does he/she do?
- What are his/her responsibilities?
- What skills or qualifications do you need?
- What's his/her job like?
- Does he/she enjoy his/her work?