

Hairdressers top job satisfaction poll (Sun 27 Feb)

WARM-UPS

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about hairdressers / English teachers / job satisfaction office jobs / desk work / dream job / ...Change topic / partner frequently to energize the class.

HAIRDRESSER BRAINSTORM: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'hairdresser'. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

MY HAIR HISTORY: Write down very brief notes of the history of your hair. What styles did you have as a kid? Are you happy with your style now? What kind of hair would you love?

HAPPY JOBS: What are the good things and bad things about the following jobs? Which would you like / hate to do? (The money is the same for all of them)

- a. NASA astronaut
- b. US president
- c. BBC TV sports reporter (international)
- d. Games software developer
- e. Chanel fashion model
- f. Teacher of English to speakers of other languages
- g. Tsunami relief director
- h. Manchester United soccer player (men's or women's teams)
- i. World Wildlife Fund (WWF) vet
- j. Department store Santa Claus

PRE-READING IDEAS

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'happy' and 'worker'.

TRUE FALSE: Guess whether the following statements about the article are true or false:

- a. Hairdressers are always very chatty. T / F
- b. All hairdressers are very happy in their jobs. T / F
- c. Architects are the unhappiest workers. T / F
- d. Three out of the ten happiest jobs involved some kind of deskwork. T / F
- e. The happiest workers were those who used their heads. T / F
- f. Teachers are very happy. T / F
- g. English teachers smile a lot and generally love their jobs. T / F
- h. To be happy in your job you must brighten the workplace with personal photographs and flowers. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| (a) trim | carried out |
| (b) chatty | position |
| (c) conducted | number |
| (d) satisfaction | decorate |
| (e) civil servants | ranking |
| (f) index | haircut |
| (g) place | contentedness |
| (h) run | talkative |
| (i) figure | operate |
| (j) brighten | government workers |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases based on the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| (a) Have you | conducted by the City & Guilds |
| (b) very | own business |
| (c) most of them love | chatty |
| (d) a survey | workplace |
| (e) None of the top | employed |
| (f) those who used | noticed |
| (g) run their | positively |
| (h) self- | ten positions |
| (i) start every day | their hands |
| (j) brighten the | their jobs |

GAP FILL

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BNE: Have you _____ that every time you go for a perm or a trim the hairdresser is always very chatty? The reason they are so happy is that most of them _____ their jobs. This is according to a survey conducted by the City & Guilds of London Institute, which asked 1,200 workers about their job _____. Forty per cent of hairdressers are very happy in their jobs, while civil servants, social workers and architects are the unhappiest workers. None of the top ten positions in the Happiness Index included _____ jobs. The happiest workers were those who used their _____. In second place were religious ministers, followed by chefs, beauticians and plumbers. The survey showed that people who can _____ their own business and be self-employed are happiest. Desk workers came very low on the happiness _____. Teachers didn't seem to be too happy either – only 8% said they enjoyed their work. There wasn't a _____ for English teachers, although their job satisfaction is probably very high. English teachers also smile a lot and generally love their jobs. City and Guilds advised workers to start every day positively, chat to colleagues, and _____ the workplace with personal photographs and flowers.

office noticed run figure satisfaction hands brighten scale love

DISCUSSION:

- a. What do you think of this article?
- b. What is your dream job?
- c. Would you like to be a hairdresser?
- d. Would you like to do the same as your parents?
- e. What did you want to do when you were ten (sixteen / twenty-one)?
- f. When do you want to retire?
- g. What's most important to you when choosing a job?
- h. Would you prefer to work with your hands or use your head?
- i. If you ran your own business, what would you do?
- j. What are the pros and cons of being self-employed?
- k. Would you prefer to work at home, doing an Internet-related job?
- l. How about working overseas?
- m. Out of all your friends, who has the best / worst job?
- n. Do you think teaching English is easy / stressful?
- o. What is the best way to enjoy your work?
- p. Which is better, a blue-collar or white-collar job?
- q. Do you want to go far in your career? How far?
- r. Teacher / Student additional questions.

HOMEWORK

VOCAB EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information on job satisfaction. Share your findings with your class next lesson.

YOUR JOB'S AD: Create an advertisement for a job you have done. Outline all the benefits and perks of the job, and the requirements for applicants. Advertise this job in your next class and conduct interviews to find the best candidate.

MY DREAM JOB: You now have your dream job. Write a diary/journal entry about your first week of work.

FULL TEXT

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BNE: Have you **noticed** that every time you go for a perm or a trim the hairdresser is always very chatty? The reason they are so happy is that most of them **love** their jobs. This is according to a survey conducted by the City & Guilds of London Institute, which asked 1,200 workers about their job **satisfaction**. Forty per cent of hairdressers are very happy in their jobs, while civil servants, social workers and architects are the unhappiest workers. None of the top ten positions in the Happiness Index included **office** jobs. The happiest workers were those who used their **hands**. In second place were religious ministers, followed by chefs, beauticians and plumbers. The survey showed that people who can **run** their own business and be self-employed are happiest. Desk workers came very low on the happiness **scale**. Teachers didn't seem to be too happy either – only 8% said they enjoyed their work. There wasn't a **figure** for English teachers, although their job satisfaction is probably very high. English teachers also smile a lot and generally love their jobs. City and Guilds advised workers to start every day positively, chat to colleagues, and **brighten** the workplace with personal photographs and flowers.