

IELTS Reading and Grammar

Complete the spaces in the text below with the, a, an or no article (-).

(1)___ third of all employees in (2)_____ UK see 'taking a sickie' as an acceptable part of (3)___ work, nothing more than light-hearted flexibility with working hours, yet taking days off when not actually sick is costing (4)_____economy (5)_____ billions of pounds (6)___ year in (7)_____ UK alone. As such, (8)_____ reasons for these days off of work need to be addressed to counteract (9)_____ 'sick culture' embracing society.

The reasons for these sick' days are quite complex. One of (10)___ main reasons for this kind of absence is 'work fatigue', (11)_____ fact that (12)_____ people are bored with their jobs. As one leading professor states, 'jobs have become more fragmented and as such, people cannot give meaning to their work and feel alienated from their main roles. This can be seen by (13)_____ masses of people who are sitting at (14)_____ workstation every day for seven or eight hours doing a job which is only one small part of a process.' Bringing back this kind of meaning into work could be (15)_____ difficult task, one which may not even be possible.

However, (16)___ most cited reason for taking 'sick days' is (17)_____ family commitments, such as childcare or illness within (18)___ family. This is an issue which can be addressed with such things as (19)___ flexible working hours and home working. Perhaps, if employers can be a bit more forward thinking in these areas, they will, in the long run, be (20)___ ones to benefit the most.

