

Unusual Jobs in the UAE

Many jobs today are very different from conventional jobs. These jobs may not have existed 50 years ago and although they might seem easy, in reality these unusual jobs require special skills and qualities.

A Voice-over artist – If you wanted to be a voice-over artist, you would not need a degree. Being a confident and expressive speaker with clear pronunciation is the most essential criteria, as is experience. Most voice-over artists start off doing small one-off jobs for local businesses and radio, with some working part-time alongside a regular job. Openings for voice-over artists could be in different languages, and, as you get lots of experience and contacts in the industry, eventually you could do voice-overs for TV and movies, and maybe even move into working as a TV or radio presenter.

B Mystery shopper – If you became a mystery shopper, you would need to inspect the services provided by shops, for example checking if the sales staff are helpful and polite, and that they can answer any of your questions about the product options. You would also need to look at the surroundings to see if they meet the shop owner's or company's standards. Mystery shoppers should, understandably, like shopping, be good communicators and have an eye for detail. A good memory is also important as you need to remember your experience well enough to be able to write a detailed report for your client after the shop visit.

C Storyteller – Storytelling is part of the UAE's heritage. Despite the move towards technology-based entertainment, traditional storytellers are still in demand. Although most storytellers work voluntarily, for example by reading stories to children in hospitals, some are paid good rates to read to students in schools and nurseries. If you decided to become a storyteller, you would need to do more than just read the lines on a page; storytellers need to be able to make the story come alive by changing the sound and pitch of their voice.

D Personal shopper – Personal shoppers help busy, fashion-conscious, and wealthy clients to find what they need, whether it is a gift, an outfit for a sophisticated wedding or a new set of designer accessories. Most personal shoppers work in exclusive department stores; however, some work as freelancers or even have their own personal shopping consultancy online. Working so closely with clients means that you need to be reliable, have good people skills and be able to remember your client's tastes so that you know exactly what they will like. Sometimes the hours can be unpredictable as clients may need something in a short amount of time. Working with demanding clients can be difficult, but if you love shopping, then this is definitely the job for you!

Read the text. Then read the descriptions below and match each person to a job.

1. Alya doesn't need to make a lot of money. She would like to help others, especially children. _____
2. Yassine is very shy and likes to be part of the crowd. He's very observant and he notices every little thing when he goes to a shop or restaurant. _____
3. Jamila loves going to the cinema and often learns the lines of the actors so she can say them at the same time when she watches films. _____
4. Samira's friends always ask for her help if they have to choose a dress for a party or if they simply want to change their look. _____

Read the text again and fill in the gaps in the following sentences.

1. _____ is an important condition to be a voice-over artist, just as is experience.
2. Voice-over artists begin their _____ by working in a local radio.
3. Having an eye for details and being good _____ are the best qualities of a mystery shopper.
4. Mystery shopper should write _____ for his client after the shop visit.
5. Although storytelling is a _____ job, It is still in demand.
6. To make a story come a live, changing the sound and pitch of their voice is _____
7. Personal shopper can work for _____ hours because of the demanding clients that may need something in a short time.