

Grammar Maze Practice – Careers and Vocations

The Neighbours

By Khaled Al Falahi

Let me (1) **speak / say / tell** you about the family living next door. The father, Mister Bader, (2) **is / are / be** a doctor. These days he (3) **works / working / worked** at a big hospital in Dubai. He is a thoughtful, kind man. His wife, Asma, works (4) **for / as / in** a teacher at the local school. She is very patient (5) **about / by / with** her learners. Also, she is honest and always speaks the truth. Omar is a university student and like me, he loves (6) **play / playing / played** football. He's also a responsible student and (7) **study / studying / studies** every night. Finally, little Mahra is a primary school learner. She is an energetic girl and loves (8) **play / to playing / to play** on the playground behind my house.

My Work-life Balance

I work (1) **to / on / in** a fairly traditional office environment doing a typical nine-to-five job. I like my job, but it's annoying that my commute to work (2) **is take / takes / has taken** an hour and a half each way and most of my work could really be (3) **do / doing / done** online from home. But my boss doesn't seem to trust that we (4) **will / won't / are** get any work done if left to our own devices, and everyone in the company (4) **have / has / is have** to clock in and out every day. It's frustrating that they feel the need (5) **to / for / of** monitor what we do so closely instead of (6) **judging / thinking / talking** us based on our task performance, like most companies do these days.

The Masterpiece of Smells

Undoubtedly, we have all had the experience of (1) **walk / walking / walked** in a mall and being hit with a wall of a powerfully overwhelming scent; usually emanating from a small kiosk. Regardless of whether the odour is pleasantly enticing or absolutely revolting to you, how often (2) **have / do / are** you stopped to consider its origins? Not (3) **only / any / many** is that perfume probably the result of years of intense labour and research, but it is also more than likely the culmination of someone's artistic vision, all packaged in an attractive bottle.

The person behind this vision is a perfumer, and their pursuit for the perfect scent is never-ending. It (4) **starts / starting / is start** with a passion, and a good "nose". Most perfumers grow up enjoying different smells, from fresh cut grass to a salty sea breeze. This passion then matures and becomes academic, resulting (5) **in / of / to** hours of chemistry classes and experiments in laboratories. In the end, performers leave university with the knowledge to (6) **is / are / be** able to turn their early passion for smells into a serious and lucrative career.

However, creating new perfumes is not an exact science, and rarely do perfumers produce a perfect smell on their first attempt. Often, a lot of time and research results in a failed attempt (7) **to / for / of** make a new fragrance. That is why besides education and natural talent, becoming a (8) **success / succeed / successful** perfumer requires patience. It can take (9) **more / over / less** 500 attempts to find the right "notes", or combination of scents, that when blended result in the perfect synthesis of smells. Only then can the perfume become (10) **one / both / many** a simple commercial product and a complex work of art.