

Vocabulary

At work

1 Complete the phrases with words in the box.

and on about something at someone fault
into little pieces meeting the finger of blame
up with a solution workers

- 1 be at _____
- 2 come _____
- 3 fellow _____
- 4 go on _____
- 5 have a go _____
- 6 point _____
- 7 a pointless _____
- 8 smash something _____

2 Choose the correct alternatives.

- 1 What a surprise! The photocopier's *at fault/jammed* again.
- 2 My boss consistently *distracts/undermines* my work.
- 3 Two phones and a tablet? How many *gadgets/tools* does one person need?
- 4 Has anyone *come/gone* up with an idea for the party?
- 5 I had a *go/try* at Jen today for bringing in stinky food!
- 6 Don't point the *finger/hand* of blame at me. I didn't do it!
- 7 No one's *at/in* fault. It's just one of those things.
- 8 Stop *coming/going* on and on about the meeting. It wasn't that bad!

3 Complete the conversation with phrases in the box.

at fault came up with distracts fellow workers
going on and on had a go at irritation
pointed the finger of blame pointless
smashing it into little pieces

My work is driving me mad.

Why?

Eddie keeps ¹ _____ about how she gets all the boring work when it's not true.

² That's annoying. Does she moan to your _____ or just you?

Just me! It's a minor ³ _____, I guess, but she ⁴ _____ me from my own work. Still, it's not as bad as all the ⁵ _____ meetings I have to attend!

My boss ⁶ _____ me today about a mistake with an order. I don't think that I was ⁷ _____, but a colleague ⁸ _____ at me.

That's not nice.

I know. I ⁹ _____ a good solution and was just fixing it when my computer crashed. Honestly, I was very close to ¹⁰ _____.

Language focus

Exaggeration

4 Match the sentence halves.

- 1 I'm starving. Seriously, _____
- 2 I'm not walking. It's miles _____
- 3 Phew! It's like _____
- 4 I've told you time _____
- 5 It looked as if _____
- 6 Stop distracting _____
- 7 That cloud is like _____
- 8 He still forgot his hat. Honestly, I _____
- a his head was going to explode.
- b an oven in here.
- c me every ten seconds.
- d must have reminded him a million times!
- e and miles away.
- f I could eat a horse.
- g and time again not to do that!
- h a big fluffy pillow.

5 Complete the conversations with one word in each gap. The first letter is given.

- 1 A: What's for supper? I'm ¹**d** _____ of hunger.
B: Me too. Let's get a takeaway. I could ²**m** _____ a kebab.
- 2 A: All he does is go on and on about his ex-girlfriend. He's ³**i** _____ a broken record.
B: Hmm, not what you want from a new boyfriend, is it?
- 3 A: Stop messaging me ⁴**e** _____ five minutes, Mum!
B: But I haven't seen you for weeks and ⁵**w** _____, I worry about you.
- 4 A: I laughed and ⁶**i** _____ when Tom got wet.
B: I know, me too. He ⁷**i** _____ like a drowned rat.

6 Complete the second sentence with the word in brackets so that it's an exaggerated version of the first.

- 1 It's cold in here.
It's _____ in here. (Arctic)
- 2 I'm really bored today.
I'm _____ today. (dying)
- 3 I've been sitting here for a long time.
I've _____ . (hours)
- 4 Dan was really angry.
Dan looked _____ me. (kill)
- 5 I would love a cup of tea.
I _____ a cup of tea. (murder)
- 6 The library's really far from here.
The library's _____ here. (miles)
- 7 Andrea is always talking about her famous uncle.
Andrea always _____ about her famous uncle. (on)
- 8 I've called the company lots of times but I can't get through.
I've called the company _____ but I can't get through. (again)