

77 Describing jobs

A Different jobs

Job	What does he/she do for a living? (= What's his/her job?)
hairdresser	a person who cuts people's hair hairdressing <i>n</i>
mechanic	a person who repairs engines (= a machine that makes things move), especially in cars and lorries
photographer	a person who takes photographs/photos photography <i>n</i>
chemist SYN pharmacist	a person who prepares and sells medicines (= special liquids or tablets that help you get better when you are ill)
travel agent	a person who makes travel arrangements for people and works in a travel agency (An agent is a person who does business for another person.)
estate agent	a person who buys and sells homes for people
postman postwoman	a person who delivers (= takes sth to the place it must go to) letters and packages to people's homes
importer exporter	a person who imports goods (= buys sth from another country to sell in your country) import <i>v, n</i> OPP export <i>v, n</i>
priest	a person who performs religious ceremonies in some religions
sailor	a person who works on a ship; a person who sails a boat (= travels on water on a ship or boat)

1 Are these sentences true or false? Write T or F. Correct the sentences that are false.

- ▶ A hairdresser cuts hair. T
- 1 An estate agent sells holidays. _____ 6 A mechanic repairs roads and bridges. _____
- 2 A chemist sells medicines. _____ 7 A priest marries people. _____
- 3 An importer exports goods to sell. _____ 8 A postman delivers new furniture. _____
- 4 A photographer takes pictures. _____ 9 An exporter lives abroad. _____
- 5 A travel agent arranges flights for people. _____ 10 A sailor sometimes sleeps on a ship. _____

2 Complete the sentences.

- ▶ I export wool from Wales, mostly to countries in the Far East.
- 1 What does your father do for a _____?
- 2 The _____ agent showed us several nice flats.
- 3 I asked the _____ not to cut too much off.
- 4 The travel _____ talked to us about holidays in Estonia and Lithuania.
- 5 The postwoman _____ the letters to the wrong house.
- 6 I believe he _____ silver jewellery from abroad and sells it in his shops.
- 7 There was something wrong with the _____, so the mechanic had a look at it.
- 8 The _____ in our church is a wonderful man.
- 9 I asked the _____ to recommend something for a bad back.
- 10 I've been an _____ for years: I buy things in France, then sell them here in the UK.
- 11 She works in a travel _____ with offices all over London.
- 12 I've always been interested in _____. I take hundreds of photos.

3 ABOUT YOU Write your answers, or talk to another student.

Which jobs above:

- need a lot of training? _____
- don't need a lot of training? _____
- need some creativity? _____
- would you like to do for a living? _____



TEST YOURSELF

B Job responsibilities

- Malala** Amy, I know you work in reception at the sports centre, but **what does that involve?**
- Amy** Well, one of my main **duties** is to **greet** customers, and I'm **in charge of** customer **bookings** – I do quite a lot of that on the phone, and sometimes organizations want to **hire** our pool for an event, for example. But I also have to **deal with** a certain number of **complaints** from customers.
- Malala** Oh, that sounds fun!
- Amy** Well, it's OK most of the time. And, of course, in an **emergency**, I have to **make sure** that people get out of the building quickly so that everyone is safe.



GLOSSARY

What does your job, etc. involve?	= What do you have to do in your job, etc?	hire	pay money to borrow sth for a short time
duty	sth you must do because it is part of your job	deal with sth	take suitable action in a situation in order to solve a problem
greet	say hello when you meet sb	complaint	a statement that you are not happy with sth: make a complaint; complain v
in charge (of sth/sb)	in a position of control over sth/sb SYN responsible for sth/sb	emergency	a sudden dangerous situation when people need help quickly
booking	an arrangement to do sth or have sth: make a booking	make sure	check sth so that you can be certain about it

4 Tick the phrases that describe the duties a hotel receptionist could have.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ▶ answer the phone ☒ | deal with requests ☐ | make a complaint ☐ |
| be in charge of the keys ☐ | have an emergency ☐ | hire a room ☐ |
| be responsible for the bookings ☐ | greet somebody ☐ | |

5 Complete the dialogues.

- ▶ Do customers come to you for help? ~ Yes, I have to make sure they're happy.
- 1 Were the customers pleased? ~ No, not at all. Some of them _____.
- 2 What did you do about the situation? ~ As soon as I had _____ with one problem, another came along!
- 3 Does the manager decide what you have to do? ~ Yes, that's one of his _____.
- 4 Who's in _____ of reception when you're not there? ~ My colleague, Jan.
- 5 I've got a new job in an estate agency. ~ Really! What does that _____?
- 6 Are you _____ for the whole department? ~ No, just my office.
- 7 We had an _____ last week: someone fell out of a window. ~ Oh, my goodness!
- 8 Did you take your car to the island? ~ No, we _____ one when we got there.

6 Complete the text.

I've worked in a tourist information office in Liverpool for two years. I ▶ greet people when they come in, but the job (1) _____ lots of different things. My main (2) _____ is to help with tourist accommodation, and (3) _____ with any problems that customers may have. And recently I was made (4) _____ for the Beatles tour: I organize trips to the houses where John Lennon and Paul McCartney used to live as children, and I have to make (5) _____ everything goes well. Of course, it doesn't always go well, and then people make (6) _____. You can't please everyone!



TEST YOURSELF