

A talk about motivation

Listen to the talk about motivation to practise and improve your listening skills.

Before listening

Do the preparation task first. Then listen to the audio and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–f) with the vocabulary (1–6).

| Vocabulary | Definition |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. an incentive | a. having many related parts; difficult to understand or solve |
| 2. to motivate | b. done by a machine or computer |
| 3. a promotion | c. something that encourages a person to do something |
| 4. complex | d. someone who studies how people behave in social situations |
| 5. automated | e. to make someone want to do something |
| 6. a social psychologist | f. the act of giving someone a job which is higher status than their current job |

Tasks

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

| | Answer | |
|---|--------|-------|
| 1. We try to motivate workers in the same way that we try to motivate our children. | True | False |
| 2. In the Glucksberg experiment, the people who were offered a reward finished faster than people who were not offered one. | True | False |
| 3. The people who were offered smaller rewards in Ariely's experiment performed better than those offered bigger rewards. | True | False |
| 4. In Ariely's experiment, people were more creative when they were concentrating on achieving a goal. | True | False |
| 5. In the future, jobs will require workers to be more creative. | True | False |
| 6. People always work better when they start the day later and work into the night. | True | False |

Task 2

Match the two parts of the sentences.

First part

1. Glucksberg's experiment shows that people solve a problem faster when
2. Ariely's experiment shows that people are less creative when
3. The same results as Glucksberg's experiment have been found when
4. An incentive works for people when
5. Incentives will no longer work for motivating people at work when
6. The example of the big tech companies shows that people work better when

Second part

- a. the experiment is repeated.
- b. they are not given an incentive.
- c. they can make choices about their work.
- d. they are doing a simple task.
- e. they are doing the jobs of the future.
- f. they are offered a bigger reward.