

# Jobs in past reading activities

1) Read about jobs in the past that don't exist anymore and then answer the questions below

## Jobs that do not exist anymore

Plenty of odd jobs exist today that didn't exist 10, 20 or 30 years ago, not like social media analyst, app developer, etc. So what happened to all of those old, interesting jobs? This list of pictures will go over a few weirdest and best jobs that ever existed.

The disappearance of the majority of these ways to make money can simply be attributed to technological advances.

**Herb strewers:** The people in the 1600s weren't the cleanest in history. Therefore, to combat the lack of hygiene, "herb strewers" planted and water herbs and flowers throughout royal family residences in order to mask or cover the scent of repulsive odors. Plants like basil, lavender, chamomile, and roses were regularly used by "herb strewers".

**Lift operators:** The passenger-operated elevators that we have today are very simple compared to their manual predecessors that needed to have a trained operator. Instead of buttons, older elevators had a lever that would regulate their speed, and the driver would need to be able to land on the right floor. While there are still elevator operators around today, their job is much more focused on security.

Taken from [Mentalfloss.com](https://www.mentalfloss.com)

**Knocker-ups:** Even if you hate your alarm, waking up to the beeping of a clock sounds better than the next job. During the Industrial Revolution, people were paid to wake clients up for work by knocking on their doors and windows with sticks. Knocker-ups were mostly found in Britain and Ireland, but as alarm clocks became more accessible, the job was eventually put on permanent snooze, although it was held on in some parts of Britain until the 1970s.

**Telegraphists:** During the telegraph's prime, wartime demand and high salaries made jobs as telegraph operators desirable. Telegraphists communicated messages between the ones in mainland and those at sea. As forms of communication evolved, the telegraph and Morse code became outdated, but the quick relaying of information brought about by this invention immensely impacted human communication.

**Radio drama:** Radio drama was a leading form of entertainment between the 1920s and the 1950s. It was an audio format that forced listeners to rely on music. In addition, the people listened to sound effects, and dialogues to imagine the story being broadcasted. The rise of television brought an end to radio drama and the careers of radio actors, at least in America.

- a) What is the main reason of the disappearance of these jobs?
- b) What did herb strewers do and why?
- c) What did the telegraphists do?
- d) How did an old elevator work?
- e) What was the job of the knocker ups?
- f) What was the radio drama?