

## IELTS Reading and Grammar

**Complete the spaces in the text below with the, a, an or no article (-).**

(1)\_\_\_ third of all employees in (2)\_\_\_\_\_ UK see 'taking a sickie' as an acceptable part of (3)\_\_\_ work, nothing more than light-hearted flexibility with working hours, yet taking days off when not actually sick is costing (4)\_\_\_\_\_economy (5)\_\_\_\_\_ billions of pounds (6)\_\_\_ year in (7)\_\_\_\_\_ UK alone. As such, (8)\_\_\_\_\_ reasons for these days off of work need to be addressed to counteract (9)\_\_\_\_\_ 'sick culture' embracing society.

The reasons for these sick' days are quite complex. One of (10)\_\_\_ main reasons for this kind of absence is 'work fatigue', (11)\_\_\_\_\_ fact that (12)\_\_\_\_\_ people are bored with their jobs. As one leading professor states, 'jobs have become more fragmented and as such, people cannot give meaning to their work and feel alienated from their main roles. This can be seen by (13)\_\_\_\_\_ masses of people who are sitting at (14)\_\_\_\_\_ workstation every day for seven or eight hours doing a job which is only one small part of a process.' Bringing back this kind of meaning into work could be (15)\_\_\_\_\_ difficult task, one which may not even be possible.

However, (16)\_\_\_ most cited reason for taking 'sick days' is (17)\_\_\_\_\_ family commitments, such as childcare or illness within (18)\_\_\_ family. This is an issue which can be addressed with such things as (19)\_\_\_ flexible working hours and home working. Perhaps, if employers can be a bit more forward thinking in these areas, they will, in the long run, be (20)\_\_\_ ones to benefit the most.

