

## Reading and vocabulary: I work in a hospital

Read the article:

### THE NURSING PROFESSION



One hundred and fifty years ago, nurses were unpaid, untrained, and unpopular, but then Florence Nightingale made nursing into a profession. The methods she introduced in the 1850s were copied all over the world, and now nursing is a career with a three- or four-year training, qualifications, grades, unions, and pensions.

In Britain, every nurse is on a grade. The grade depends on experience and skills, and each grade has different responsibilities and pay. On the bottom grades are unqualified auxiliary nurses who do the routine work on hospital

wards. On the top grades are nursing officers, who are usually administrators.

Auxiliary nurses are on the bottom grades, but student nurses get the lowest pay. However, students don't stay at the bottom of the pay scale forever. When they qualify, they start working on a middle grade. As they get experience, they can get promotion and move up the ranks to become staff nurse, then sister (charge nurse if a man), and perhaps eventually nursing officer.

Many nurses work shifts, and often they work overtime to earn more money. After basic training, many nurses choose to do

further study and become specialists.

Nurses can specialize in many different fields – there are triage nurses working in Casualty, and psychiatric nurses who treat the mentally ill. There are health visitors who visit patients in their own homes, practice nurses working in GPs' surgeries, and midwives who deliver babies.

Many of them say they do not get enough pay and respect for the work they do.

They say that the work is physically and mentally hard, that they work long hours and get very tired. But they also say that there are many great rewards which have nothing to do with money.

Find words in the article with these meanings.

- 1 exams and courses that you have taken  
q\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 money that you will receive when you are old  
p\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 similar work that you have done before  
e\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 special abilities  
s\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 levels of pay  
p\_\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 extra hours you can work to earn more money  
o\_\_\_\_\_
- 7 study and practice to learn how to do a job  
b\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_
- 8 more advanced learning  
f\_\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_

## Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 The more responsibility you have, the higher your grade. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Nursing officers are the same as auxiliary nurses. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Students are paid less than auxiliary nurses. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 A charge nurse is a man. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 There are not many opportunities for British nurses to specialize. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Many nurses say that the job is rewarding, but the pay is low. \_\_\_\_\_

**Number these jobs from the highest grade (1) to the lowest (4). Two of them are equal:**

- a charge nurse \_\_\_\_\_
- b nursing officer \_\_\_\_\_
- c auxiliary nurse \_\_\_\_\_
- d sister \_\_\_\_\_
- e staff nurse \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the sentences with the words from the list.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ are on the bottom grade.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ often work in administration.
- 3 The new job is a \_\_\_\_\_ for her.
- 4 Psychiatric nurses \_\_\_\_\_ in mental health.
- 5 You can do a \_\_\_\_\_ course while you work.
- 6 You need to send a CV when you \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 Contact with patients can be very \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 We are looking for well \_\_\_\_\_ staff.

qualified  
nursing officers  
promotion  
part-time  
apply for a job  
auxiliary nurses  
rewarding  
specialize

**Complete these descriptions of jobs with the jobs and verbs below:**

|                |                 |          |          |             |
|----------------|-----------------|----------|----------|-------------|
| anaesthetist   | pharmacist      |          |          |             |
| cardiologist   | physiotherapist |          |          |             |
| consultant     | porter          |          |          |             |
| lab technician | radiologist     | moves    | performs | specializes |
| midwife        | receptionist    | gives    | examines | prepares    |
| paediatrician  | scrub nurse     | supports | treats   | takes       |
| paramedic      | surgeon         | delivers |          |             |

- 1 A paediatrician *treats* children.
- 2 A \_\_\_\_\_ attends births and \_\_\_\_\_ babies.
- 3 A \_\_\_\_\_ in illnesses of the heart and blood vessels.
- 4 A \_\_\_\_\_ equipment, furniture, patients, etc. around the hospital.
- 5 A \_\_\_\_\_ x-rays and other images.
- 6 A \_\_\_\_\_ surgeons in the operating theatre.
- 7 A \_\_\_\_\_ medicines to give to medical staff or patients.
- 8 A \_\_\_\_\_ responds to emergencies and \_\_\_\_\_ first aid.
- 9 A \_\_\_\_\_ operations.
- 10 A \_\_\_\_\_ samples and tissues under a microscope.

### Be ready to answer the questions:

1. Do you like your job?
2. What is the sphere you specialize in?
3. What responsibilities do you have at work?
4. Does your grade depend on experience and skills?
5. Do you work overtime to earn more money?
6. Is your job physically/mentally hard?
7. Do you get enough money and respect for the work you do?
8. Is there anything you get in reward for your work besides money?