

## Complete the gaps with ‘a’, ‘an’, ‘the’ or ‘ø’ for zero article.

For over \_\_\_\_ century, people have been predicting that \_\_\_\_\_ technology would give us more free time: we could eat \_\_\_\_ pills instead of cooking, \_\_\_\_ robots would clean our houses, \_\_\_\_ Internet would mean none of us would have to waste time travelling to \_\_\_\_ work. Technology would also solve other nasty problems, so no-one would have to do dangerous, dirty or dull work to earn \_\_\_\_ money. That was \_\_\_\_ prediction! Sadly, it's not quite worked out that way. In many countries, \_\_\_\_ people are working more hours than fifty years ago. Some terrible jobs may have disappeared: for example, we don't make \_\_\_\_ colour purple with \_\_\_\_ rotting seafood anymore! However, there are still plenty of bad jobs left – jobs in which you may risk \_\_\_\_ injury, be exposed to chemicals and dirt or maybe just die of boredom!

### 1 HUMAN GUINEA PIG

Hundreds of \_\_\_\_ people take part in \_\_\_\_ drug trials every year. For between €45 and €4,500, they take \_\_\_\_ new drug to test for any side effects, such as \_\_\_\_ vomiting or \_\_\_\_ headaches. Some students join these drug trials as \_\_\_\_ relatively quick and easy way of earning \_\_\_\_ money. John Spiral, a history student from Dublin, regularly does them. ‘You might go to \_\_\_\_ hospital three or four times, maybe eight hours ‘work’. I had \_\_\_\_ really upset stomach once, and another time I got strange red marks on my skin, but that's all. Usually it's fine, and you're helping \_\_\_\_ science, which benefits everyone!'

### 2 EMBALMER

Embalmers preserve \_\_\_\_ dead bodies in preparation for \_\_\_\_ funerals. They work anything up to 50 hours \_\_\_\_ week for \_\_\_\_ salary of around £15,000 \_\_\_\_ year, far less than \_\_\_\_ national average. They spend most of \_\_\_\_ day on their feet and generally work bent over \_\_\_\_ table. They also have to work with very strong-smelling chemicals. ‘I suffer from backache, but \_\_\_\_ job's not as bad as you might think,’ says Frank McCreary. ‘I'm even used to \_\_\_\_ smell now – I don't even notice it. And of course, \_\_\_\_ families of \_\_\_\_ dead are usually very grateful for \_\_\_\_ job I've done, which is obviously \_\_\_\_ big motivation for me.’

### 3 CALL CENTRE WORKER

Many banks and other companies have \_\_\_\_\_ call centres abroad where customers can ring for information or to complain. Levels of \_\_\_\_\_ stress among \_\_\_\_\_ workers are very high. They often work in cramped conditions, have to stare at \_\_\_\_\_ computer all day, and have little opportunity to laugh or joke with their co-workers. One worker, from \_\_\_\_\_ Indian call centre, said, ‘We get quite \_\_\_\_\_ lot of abuse. I can’t repeat what some people scream at us. Often there is nothing you can do about their complaint, so they slam down \_\_\_\_\_ phone, but then you have no time to think before another person calls you straightaway. I don’t think I’ll ever get used to it. I’d like to leave, but \_\_\_\_\_ money’s quite good and there’s \_\_\_\_\_ lot of competition for \_\_\_\_\_ jobs here in Mumbai.’