

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.'