

77) Describing jobs

A Different jobs

Job	What does he/she do for a living? (= What's his/her job?)
hairdresser	a person who cuts people's hair hairdressing <i>n</i>
mechanic	a person who repairs engines (= a machine that makes things move), especially in cars and lorries
photographer	a person who takes photographs/photos photography <i>n</i>
chemist SYN pharmacist	a person who prepares and sells medicines (= special liquids or tablets that help you get better when you are ill)
travel agent	a person who makes travel arrangements for people and works in a travel agency (An agent is a person who does business for another person.)
estate agent	a person who buys and sells homes for people
postman postwoman	a person who delivers (= takes sth to the place it must go to) letters and packages to people's homes
importer exporter	a person who imports goods (= buys sth from another country to sell in your country) import <i>v, n</i> OPP export <i>v, n</i>
priest	a person who performs religious ceremonies in some religions
sailor	a person who works on a ship; a person who sails a boat (= travels on water on a ship or boat)

1 Are these sentences true or false? Write T or F. Correct the sentences that are false.

- A hairdresser cuts hair. T
- 1 An estate agent sells holidays.
- 2 A chemist sells medicines.
- 3 An importer exports goods to sell.
- 4 A photographer takes pictures.
- 5 A travel agent arranges flights for people.
- 6 A mechanic repairs roads and bridges.
- 7 A priest marries people.
- 8 A postman delivers new furniture.
- 9 An exporter lives abroad.
- 10 A sailor sometimes sleeps on a ship.

2 Complete the sentences.

- I export wool from Wales, mostly to countries in the Far East.
- 1 What does your father do for a ?
- 2 The agent showed us several nice flats.
- 3 I asked the not to cut too much off.
- 4 The travel talked to us about holidays in Estonia and Lithuania.
- 5 The postwoman the letters to the wrong house.
- 6 I believe he silver jewellery from abroad and sells it in his shops.
- 7 There was something wrong with the , so the mechanic had a look at it.
- 8 The in our church is a wonderful man.
- 9 I asked the to recommend something for a bad back.
- 10 I've been an for years: I buy things in France, then sell them here in the UK.
- 11 She works in a travel with offices all over London.
- 12 I've always been interested in I take hundreds of photos.

3 ABOUT YOU Write your answers, or talk to another student.

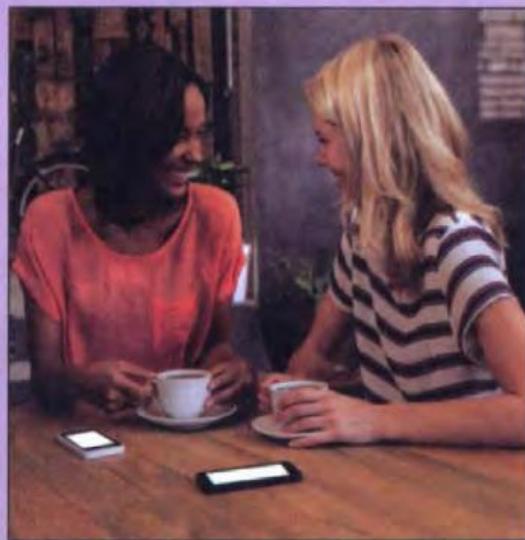
Which jobs above:

- need a lot of training?
- don't need a lot of training?
- need some creativity?
- would you like to do for a living?



B Job responsibilities

- Malala Amy, I know you work in reception at the sports centre, but **what does that involve?**
- Amy Well, one of my main **duties** is to **greet** customers, and I'm in **charge of customer bookings** – I do quite a lot of that on the phone, and sometimes organizations want to **hire** our pool for an event, for example. But I also have to **deal with** a certain number of **complaints** from customers.
- Malala Oh, that sounds fun!
- Amy Well, it's OK most of the time. And, of course, in an **emergency**, I have to **make sure** that people get out of the building quickly so that everyone is safe.



GLOSSARY

What does your job, etc. involve?	= What do you have to do in your job, etc?	hire	pay money to borrow sth for a short time
duty	sth you must do because it is part of your job	deal with sth	take suitable action in a situation in order to solve a problem
greet	say hello when you meet sb	complaint	a statement that you are not happy with sth: make a complaint; complain v
in charge (of sth/sb)	in a position of control over sth/sb SYN responsible for sth/sb	emergency	a sudden dangerous situation when people need help quickly
booking	an arrangement to do sth or have sth: make a booking	make sure	check sth so that you can be certain about it

4 Tick the phrases that describe the duties a hotel receptionist could have.

- answer the phone deal with requests make a complaint
 be in charge of the keys have an emergency hire a room
 be responsible for the bookings greet somebody

5 Complete the dialogues.

- Do customers come to you for help? ~ Yes, I have to make sure they're happy.
- 1 Were the customers pleased? ~ No, not at all. Some of them
- 2 What did you do about the situation? ~ As soon as I had ... with one problem, another came along!
- 3 Does the manager decide what you have to do? ~ Yes, that's one of his
- 4 Who's in ... of reception when you're not there? ~ My colleague, Jan.
- 5 I've got a new job in an estate agency. ~ Really! What does that ...?
- 6 Are you ... for the whole department? ~ No, just my office.
- 7 We had an ... last week: someone fell out of a window. ~ Oh, my goodness!
- 8 Did you take your car to the island? ~ No, we ... one when we got there.

6 Complete the text.

I've worked in a tourist information office in Liverpool for two years. I ► greet people when they come in, but the job (1) ... lots of different things. My main (2) ... is to help with tourist accommodation, and (3) ... with any problems that customers may have. And recently I was made (4) ... for the Beatles tour: I organize trips to the houses where John Lennon and Paul McCartney used to live as children, and I have to make (5) ... everything goes well. Of course, it doesn't always go well, and then people make (6) You can't please everyone!



TEST YOURSELF