

# Let's get down to business

Because big salaries and large bonuses aren't always enough to keep employees happy, some companies are now offering their staff exciting and unusual perks. A software company in Los Angeles, USA, for example, has built a number of on-site facilities for its employees. Staff can visit the hairdresser's, leave their cars at the car wash and their clothes at the dry-cleaner's – for free! There's also an on-site restaurant that serves free gourmet meals 24 hours a day! What a treat!

When employees of a San Francisco-based software company need a break, they head for the games room. Here, they can play video games, pool or table tennis. Alternatively, staff members can take part in outdoor activities, like basketball or tennis. The employees of this company say that their work environment is so pleasant that they often don't want to go home!

Many companies also organise annual holidays and outings for their staff. Last year, a US supermarket chain took all its employees white-water rafting. And, in the UK, a mobile phone company organised a special end-of-year concert for its 17,000 employees. Some of the biggest rock bands in the UK played at the concert and staff members had the opportunity to meet the performers – how thrilling!

Some companies offer their staff members slightly more unusual perks. For example, a US insurance firm gives all its employees the day off on their birthday, as well as a gift of \$100. The company also offers on-site golf lessons and yoga classes, and there are even meditation rooms for staff members to enjoy some quiet time. Many employees consider this company to be such a wonderful place to work that they wouldn't dream of looking for a job anywhere else!

**C. Read again and complete the sentences.**

1. A software company in Los Angeles doesn't charge its employees anything for \_\_\_\_\_ their clothes or when they want to wash \_\_\_\_\_. They can also \_\_\_\_\_ free of charge all day long.
2. Employees at a San Francisco company can go outside and play \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ during their break. Sometimes they have so much fun at work they don't want \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ were taken to a concert by a UK mobile phone company.
4. Employees of a US insurance company don't have to \_\_\_\_\_ on their birthdays and they can spend a quiet moment in a \_\_\_\_\_.