



Electrician Occupational Outlook

The job of an electrician involves putting in and maintaining electrical power systems. This is done in homes and businesses.

The work of an electrician is occasionally demanding. Electricians must **lift** heavy objects and **climb** ladders. The work may require them to bend, **stand**, **kneel**, or **stoop** down low for long periods.

To be successful, electricians need to work fast. In order to **grab** and **release** tools quickly, they wear a tool belt. To prevent electric shock, electricians usually **turn off** the power source before working. They **turn on** the power when they are done. Electricians also use sharp tools to **split** wires.

Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-5) with the definitions (A-E).

- | | | | |
|---|---------|---|-----------|
| 1 | — lift | 4 | — turn on |
| 2 | — stand | 5 | — release |
| 3 | — stoop | | |

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | to stop holding something |
| B | to be in a vertical position |
| C | to make something work by giving it power |
| D | to move something up to a higher place |
| E | to bend forward while standing up |

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What are some actions an electrician performs on the job?
- 2 How can electricians minimize bodily strain when working?

Reading

2 Read the occupational manual. Then, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 ___ Electricians are expected to work quickly.
- 2 ___ Electricians must wear helmets to work.
- 3 ___ Electricians work in homes and businesses.

4 Choose the sentence that uses the underlined part correctly.

- 1 A He released the rope and didn't let go.
B The electrician climbed the ladder.
- 2 A She split the check and paid it all herself.
B He can't lift heavy weights since his accident.
- 3 A He grabbed the bag and ran away.
B I turned on the light so it would be dark.
- 4 A He stooped to reach the top of the shelf.
B Please turn off the TV before you leave.
- 5 A It's hard to stand all day in an uncomfortable chair.
B I had to kneel to pick up the papers on the floor.

5 Listen and read the occupational manual again. How do electricians prevent electric shocks?

Listening

6 Listen to a conversation between an intern and an electrician. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 ___ The woman started out as an apprentice.
- 2 ___ The woman loves traveling for her work.
- 3 ___ The woman began working when she was twenty.

7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

- Intern:** I still have a few questions about your job. What do you do each day?
- Electrician:** Well, I travel around with my tools and 1 _____ that people have with their electricity.
- Intern:** When did you get into the 2 _____?
- Electrician:** About twenty years ago, when I became 3 _____ like you.
- Intern:** What is your favorite part of this job?
- Electrician:** I love the 4 _____ . I like climbing ladders and lifting objects.
- Intern:** Wow. The job of 5 _____ sounds difficult but exciting!
- Electrician:** 6 _____. See you tomorrow!

Speaking

8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then switch roles.

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

I still have a few questions ...

When did you ...

What is your favorite ...

Student A: You are an intern. Talk to Student B about:

- what he or she does each day
- how long he or she has done the job
- the best part of the job for him or her

Student B: You are an electrician. Talk to Student A about your job.

Writing

9 Use the conversation from Task 8 to fill out the interview notes.

Interview Notes

Job: _____

Person Interviewed: _____

How long in the field: _____

Best part of the job: _____

What was your opinion of the job after the discussion?