

Roger the gardener

Do you know the best thing that ever happened to me? Do you know what it was? It was when I lost my last job. Yes, really! I never liked it – hated it in fact – stuck in an office all day with computers and a telephone. Now my hobby is my full-time job! I start work very early, er.... in summer I usually leave home about 5.30 in the morning, but in winter not until about 8. I have a small van, and I carry all my tools and equipment in that. It's autumn now so I'm tidying the gardens – I'm picking up leaves and pulling up old summer flowers. Oh, and I'm planting bulbs as well. I'm planting lots of daffodils and tulips. Every season is so different and I love them all. I just love working outside in the open air after all those years in a stuffy office.

I never noticed the seasons, there! After work I always go home and relax in a hot bath. I have a flat in London but most of my work is outside of London, in the suburbs.

I'm not married but I live with my girlfriend, Fiona. I usually cook our evening meal, because she gets home from work after me. She's a graphic designer and earns a lot of money, much more than me! She earns more but I enjoy my work more.

At weekends we often drive into the country and go to antique shops and antique sales. I collect old radios, you see. We don't have a television! Can you believe it? Everybody has one these days but we don't! Yes, er...,er... I collect old radios and Fiona collects old cookery books. We take our dog, we have a lovely dog, and we like taking her on long walks. I've just bought two 1930s radios and I'm cleaning them and mending them. All my radios work, you know! I never play any sports. Is this unusual?

I think there is only one problem with my job. It's seasonal, so I don't earn much in the autumn and winter, so er... I'm not earning much at the moment. I earn most money in spring and summer. But it's OK, I earn enough, not enough to eat out often in expensive restaurants or go to shows, but enough for my dog and my hobby.

I'm a very happy man.

Answer the questions

1. Where did the man work?
2. What is his job now?
3. What time does he leave home in summer and in winter?
4. What kind of car does he have?
5. Where does he live?
6. Is he married?
7. What does Fiona do?
8. What do they do at weekends?
9. What does Roger collect?
10. What does Fiona collect?
11. What kind of pet do they have?
12. What is the problem with Roger's job?
13. Can Roger eat out in expensive restaurants or go to shows?

Read and choose True False

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 1) Earlier Roger worked in an office. | True | False |
| 2) Now he is working in the market | True | False |
| 3) Roger never noticed the seasons. | True | False |
| 4) He lives in Brighton, in the suburbs. | True | False |
| 5) He is married. | True | False |
| 6) Fiona is a graphic designer. | True | False |
| 7) At weekends, they go to their parents. | True | False |
| 8) Fiona collects old cookery books. | True | False |
| 9) They don't have a car. | True | False |
| 10) They have a dog. | True | False |

Complete the sentences with the word from the box

stuffy hot job TV radios daffodils
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- 1) Now my hobby is my full-time _____.
- 2) I'm planting lots of _____
- 3) He likes relaxing in a _____ bath.
- 4) I collect old _____
- 5) I hated working in a _____ office.
- 6) We don't have a _____

Put sentences in the correct order

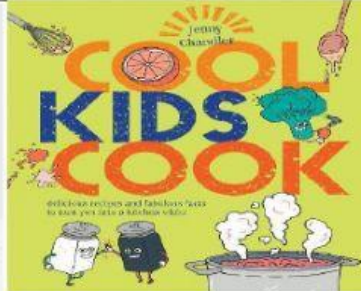
- a) Roger lives in a flat, in the suburbs.
- b) He worked in a stuffy office.
- c) She is a graphic designer.
- d) They have a lovely dog.
- e) Now he is working in the garden.
- f) Roger lives with her girlfriend, Fiona.
- g) Roger collects old radios and Fiona collects old cookery books.
- h) There is one problem with Roger's job. It's seasonal.
- i) Every season is so different and he loves them all.

Read and draw lines

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. I don't earn much | my last job. |
| 2. I usually cook | on long walks. |
| 3. It was when I lost | our evening meal |
| 4. I love working | in the van. |
| 5. I carry all my tools | in the autumn and winter |
| 6. We like taking our dog | outside in the open air. |

Match words with pictures

cookery book hate tulips earn money suburb
mend eat out van tools daffodils



Complete the sentences with the word

earn money cookery books daffodils suburbs
mended tools van hate tulips eat out

1. My mother _____ her socks.
2. I'm too tired to cook tonight; shall we _____?
3. Many students live in the _____ of the city.
4. My father is working hard to _____.
5. We hired a _____ for transport.
6. Most children _____ school.
7. The _____ are in bloom in the flower bed.
8. The secret to good _____, in my opinion, is that the recipes need to work.
9. My uncle keeps his _____ in the garage.
10. My mother likes red _____ very much and so does my sister.

Guess the words

1. An area where people live which is away from the centre of a town or city.

2. It is usually simple objects that you use to make, shape, or mend something, for example a hammer, saw, spade, or spanner. _____
3. A plant that grows from a bulb and has a large, brightly colored bell-shaped flower on a stem, or the flower itself grows in the spring. _____
4. To have a meal in a restaurant. _____
5. To repair something that is broken or damaged. _____
6. A vehicle used for carrying goods. It is usually larger than a car and smaller than a truck. _____
7. To receive money as payment for work that you do. _____
8. To dislike someone or something very much. _____
9. A yellow or white bell-shaped flower with a long stem, commonly seen in the spring. _____
10. A book that explains how to prepare particular dishes. _____