

DREAM JOB Turns into

NIGHTMARE

- 1 It was advertised as the best job in the world. And it certainly looked good. You would be paid (\$189,000 for six months) to surf, sail and swim. The job came with a beachside mansion, with its own swimming pool, and fantastic views of the ocean. All you had to do was look after tiny Hamilton Island, situated off the coast of Queensland. Duties included feeding the fish and writing a blog of your experiences to help encourage tourism in the area. There were more than 34,000 applicants for the job from all over the world, so Ben Southall was thrilled when he beat them all and won the contract.
- 2 But, as it turned out, it wasn't quite the dream job that some people might have expected. First, it was incredibly busy. Ben found himself working seven days a week and up to nineteen hours a day. He had a busy schedule of events to attend, with promotional events, press conferences, training courses and administrative duties. "It has been very busy, busier than most people would have imagined, and certainly busier than I had imagined," Mr. Southall told reporters when he finished his contract.
- 3 In fact, during his six months, Ben visited ninety "exotic locations," made forty-seven video diaries and gave more than 250 media interviews, including a chat with popular U.S. TV host Oprah Winfrey. He also posted more than 75,000 words in sixty separate blogs, uploaded more than 2,000 photos and "tweeted" more than 730 times.

- 4 That didn't leave much time for surfing, sailing or simply relaxing and enjoying the ocean views. And when he did get the chance to try some water sports, things didn't always go well. On one trip, Ben was stung by a deadly jellyfish. Irukandji jellyfish are transparent and very small, so they are very difficult to see in the water.
- 5 In his blog, Ben describes how he was enjoying jet skiing with some friends, and, when as he climbed off the jet ski, he felt a sting on his arm. Within thirty minutes, Ben was feeling the venom. He was hot and sweaty, with a headache, pains in his chest and high blood pressure. Ben had to be rushed to a doctor who diagnosed the symptoms and gave him some medication. Luckily, Ben was fine, but it was an unwelcome end to his stay in paradise, and not how he expected to spend his last few days on Hamilton Island. Ben was lucky to survive.
- 6 However, he still insists that he enjoyed himself immensely. In fact, Tourism Queensland is offering him a new contract, and he will also write a book about his experiences.



READING

- 1 A Ben Southall got a "dream job": looking after Hamilton Island, off the coast of Queensland, Australia. The article describes how the job turned into a nightmare. Which of these problems do you think it will mention?

loneliness	free time
feeling bored	illness
problems with animals	money

- 2 Read the article to see if you were right. Then answer the questions.

- 1 What three things help to make the job "the best job in the world"?

- 2 Why was the job not as "ideal" as it seemed at first?

- 3 What happened to Ben toward the end of his contract?

- 4 What is he going to do now?

- 2 Check (✓) the things Ben did as part of his job.

- 1 gave speeches
- 2 made video diaries
- 3 managed a big team of people
- 4 gave interviews
- 5 attended press conferences
- 6 learned a new language
- 7 met politicians
- 8 wrote a novel
- 9 wrote a blog about his experiences
- 10 learned to surf and sail

- 3 Find words or phrases in the text to match definitions 1–8.

- 1 a large house by the ocean (paragraph 1) _____
- 2 a plan that includes a lot of things to be done in a short time (paragraph 2) _____
- 3 meetings at which someone answers questions asked by people from newspapers, television, etc. (paragraph 2) _____
- 4 activities involved in managing the work of a company or organization (paragraph 2) _____
- 5 posted a comment using the website Twitter (paragraph 3) _____
- 6 have an opportunity (paragraph 4) _____
- 7 taken very quickly (paragraph 5) _____
- 8 very, very much (paragraph 6) _____