

- 2 Complete the articles with these words and phrases. There's one extra item.

9 to 5	flexible
stand out	unemployed
competitive	job satisfaction
works long hours	job opportunities
transferable skills	employment agency
permanent contract	

Randstad, a(n) ¹ _____ based in the Netherlands, helps connect people all over the world with companies and jobs. Every year the company publishes a report on working life around the world after having surveyed working people in more than thirty countries globally. Here are some of the findings from their most recent report:

- The number of ² _____ people is dropping as more jobs are created and people are hired to do them.
- 54% of people feel confident that the number of ³ _____ is increasing and that they will have a wider choice of jobs.
- 74% of people say they like their jobs, so ⁴ _____ is relatively high.
- 18% of workers would like support from their company to develop ⁵ _____ that will help them advance professionally.

Global research by the World Health Organization found that about 9% of the world's population ⁶ _____, which they define as 55 or more hours per week. This can lead to health problems. According to the BBC, workers in highly ⁷ _____ industries, such as banking and finance, often work far more than the usual ⁸ _____ workday in an effort to ⁹ _____ from their colleagues and show their boss how hard they're working. The BBC also reports that many professionals, such as lecturers, work without a ¹⁰ _____. This means they have little long-term job security, but often have very long work weeks.

Pronunciation

Saying /r/ at the end of syllables

- 1  **83** Read the sentences and circle the /r/ sounds at the end of syllables. Then listen and repeat.

- 1 Is she an actor or an artist?
- 2 He isn't a barber; he's a builder.
- 3 She's been a sailor for her entire career.
- 4 I'm a reporter, but I'd like to retire.
- 5 His father is a firefighter.

Look at the Learning to Learn box. Then do the task.

LEARNING TO LEARN: PRONUNCIATION

Dealing with challenging sounds

It's common for speakers from a variety of first languages to find some sounds in English challenging to produce. This is usually because the sounds aren't used in their first language or aren't used in the same way. Some common examples are the differences between /p/ and /b/, /v/ and /w/, and /r/ and /l/. Here are some tips for dealing with challenging sounds:

- Practice hearing the difference between similar sounds by writing down what you hear.
- When you practice the sound, notice the movement and position of your lips, mouth, and tongue. If you need help with how to make a sound, search online for a video that demonstrates it.
- Practice one syllable at a time before practicing the full word.

- 1  **84** Listen and write the sentences in your notebook.
- 2  **85** Listen and repeat the words.
- 3 Think about which English sounds, either from this exercise or others, are challenging for you to make.
- 4 Make a list of sounds that you find challenging. If necessary, check online for pronunciation tips before practicing them.



Listening

1 **8.6** Read the statements. Then listen to two conversations about using virtual reality (VR) for business meetings and check (✓) the three topics discussed in each conversation.

Conversation 1—Hanif and Paola

- 1 VR uses tiny screens to make you feel that you're in a different place.
- 2 VR games can be useful for team-building exercises at work.
- 3 VR is a useful tool for meetings because it fools your brain into feeling that you're with people.
- 4 VR is good value for money because it can replace travel for face-to-face meetings.
- 5 VR may soon mean that traditional company offices are no longer necessary.

Conversation 2—Hanif and Steffi

- 1 VR is too expensive to be practical.
- 2 Different types of technology can be used for different purposes.
- 3 VR isn't useful for meetings because it doesn't allow you to see other people's faces or to read their body language.
- 4 VR meetings can become very confusing if more than two or three people join.
- 5 VR blocks clear communication.

2 For each suggestion, circle P (Paola) or S (Steffi).

- 1 Invest in a full set of VR equipment. P S
- 2 Don't bother with VR. P S
- 3 Continue using video meetings, along with phone calls and email. P S
- 4 If possible, cut all face-to-face meetings that require travel. P S

3 Circle the action that represents the best synthesis of Paola's and Steffi's ideas.

- a Buy VR equipment to completely replace video meetings.
- b Rent VR equipment, try it in different types of meetings and see how it works.
- c Investigate better non-VR software to improve video meetings.