

Work is more than a job. Talk about what it means to you.

TODAY'S TOPIC

Work is one of the first topics that comes up in English conversation. 'What do you do?' is a standard question. Know what you want to say.

You do not need to make your job sound interesting. Talk about what work means to you, what gives you energy and what does not.

START HERE (SAY THESE OUT LOUD)

One sentence each. No writing. Just speak.

- What do you do for work? Or what did you do before you moved here?
- Do you prefer working on your own or in a team?
- Is there a job you have always wanted?

If you get stuck, start with: "My job is not always easy, but..."

Say what comes to mind.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

Choose 2 or 3 that match how you actually talk about this topic.

to be employed	to work for a company or employer <i>"I am employed full-time at a logistics company."</i>
self-employed	working for yourself, not a company <i>"I have been self-employed for three years."</i>
to move up	to get promoted or advance in a career <i>"I am hoping to move up within the company."</i>
work environment	the atmosphere and conditions at work <i>"The work environment here is really positive."</i>
to work overtime	to work more hours than usual <i>"I have been working overtime all week."</i>
to apply for a job	to formally request to be considered for a position <i>"I applied for a job at a new company."</i>
work experience	previous jobs or professional background <i>"My work experience is quite varied."</i>
to take your work seriously	to be dedicated and responsible at work <i>"She always takes her work seriously."</i>

SPEAKING PRACTICE (CHOOSE 3 TO 5)

Answer out loud. 30 to 60 seconds each. Do not write. Just speak.

- Tell me about your current or previous job. What did you actually do?
- What gives you energy at work, and what drains you?
- Have you ever had a difficult manager or colleague? How did you handle it?
- Is working here different from working in your home country?
- What would your ideal job look like?
- How do you talk about work with people from here?

GO FURTHER

Choose one. Speak for 1 to 2 minutes.

- Is work part of who you are, or do you do it just for the money?
- What would you change about your work situation if you could?
- How do you feel about the balance between work and the rest of your life?

THIS WEEK'S SMALL ACTION

Tell someone in English about your work or career this week.
Say what you do, what you enjoy, and what you would change.
Once this week. That is enough.

Want more practice? The members edition has extended vocabulary, a partner activity, group discussion questions, and a real-life speaking structure.