ESL Topics: Jobs & Occupation

Sample Questions & Answers:

Beginner:

1.) Do you work?

Yes, I have a full-time job.

2.) What is your job?

I work as a computer programmer for Google.

3.) How long have you been working for your current employer?

I'm just shy of completing my first year with the company.

4.) What sector do you work in? What sector would you like to work for in the future?

I work in the tech sector.

5.) Does your job offer any perks?

As a matter of fact my job offers several perks. I get a free phone along with unlimited Google fiber internet.

6.) What are your responsibilities? / What are you responsible for?

I am responsible for the maintenance of several websites and platforms at Google.

Intermediate:

1.) Does your current position offer room for growth?

Yes, after completing my first year as programmer I will be evaluated and possibly promoted from junior developer to senior developer.

2.) Is your salary competitive when compared to other corporations in the same industry?

Yes Google has a very competitive salary when compared to other companies in the tech sector.

3.) How much time off are you entitled to annually?

I'm entitled to 20 working days off a year. However, I can only take 5 consecutive days off at a time.

4.) How many breaks do you get per shift?

I get an hour for lunch and three breaks for 15 minutes.

Advanced:

1.) What attracted you to your specific field?

I was always interested in how computers can automate certain tasks.

2.) How many hours do you work a week? Do you get paid overtime?

I work a standard 40 hour work week. Every once in a while I work a random Saturday afternoon.

3.) What are the prerequisites to getting a job in your field?

A degree in computer programming is an absolute must. While job experience is a prerequisite it is nice to have.

4.) Take me through a typical day? When does your shift start and finish?

My typical day is rather boring. I start at 9 and work until 5 pm. During that time I basically update our servers and create new content for our websites.

5.) Are promotions based on seniority or merit at your company?

Promotions at Google are based on merit. The more valuable you are as a member of a team the more likely you'll get promoted. However, promotions usually go to those who also have a lot of years of experience under their belt.

6.) What jobs are in demand in your country? What jobs are starting to become obsolete?

The whole economy is tanking lately. However, everything associated with electronics engineering is still in high demand. The job market is really saturated with business majors and graduates related to finance.

Match:

Match the words from column 1 with the best-suited answer in column 2.

Column 1	Column 2
1.) just shy of	a.) review
2.) sector	b.) in a row
3.) perks	c.) duty / task
4.) responsibilities	d.) computerization
5.) evaluated	e.) slightly under
6.) consecutive	f.) deserve / earn
7.) automate	g.) a benefit an employee is entitled to.

Column 1	Column 2
8.) merit	h.) area / field
9.) obsolete	i.) over supply
10.) saturated	j.) outdated

Questions:

1.) What do you love about your job?

2.) What do you hate about your job?

3.) How did you get your job?

4.) What was the interview process like?

5.) Does your job come with any perks?

6.) Do you handle any hazardous materials at your job?

7.) How many hours per shift do you work?

8.) Do you wear a uniform?

9.) Do you work in a cubicle or do you have your own office?

10.) Are you satisfied with your salary?

11.) Would you like to switch careers?

12.) Have you considered going back to school?

13.) Does your company have a dress code?

14.) What jobs are considered masculine in your culture?

15.) What jobs are considered feminine in your culture?

Vocabulary:

- **"just shy of":** A Little bit less than. *"He's just shy of 100 kg's."*
- **sector:** An area of the economy. *"He works in the financial sector."*
- **perks:** A benefit given to an employee of a company. *"The only perk I get working at Apple is a 10% discount."*
- **responsibilities:** Duties required from your job. *"My main responsibility as a teacher is making sure my students learn."*
- **"room for growth":** Means an opportunity to get a promotion or higher salary in a company. *"There is not a lot of opportunity for growth working at Home Plus."*
- **evaluated:** A review of your work and performance. *"I get a company evaluation once every six months."*
- **competitive salary:** Means how your salary compares to other salary in other companies in a similar sector. *"Apple and Google have very competitive salaries within the tech sector."*
- **consecutive:** One after the other in order. *"I've been studying programming for 10 consecutive days."*
- **automate:** To make a task faster and simple with the help of computers or machines. *"I wrote a program that automates the payroll for each member of our company."*
- **prerequisites:** A prior condition that is required to exist for something else to happen. *"Speaking English and Chinese is a prerequisite for getting a job at Shanghai Disney."*
- **seniority:** Being older or having worked longer than someone else. *"He has several years seniority over me at the company."*
- **merit:** To deserve something based on your contribution. *"Our raise system is based on merit."*
- **"in demand"** Something that is needed. *"English teachers are in high demand in China."*
- **obsolete:** No longer in use or outdated. *Windows 7 is slowly becoming obsolete.*

- **saturated:** When the market is flooded with something. When supply is much higher than demand. *"The market is saturated with oil from various suppliers from all over the world."*

Daily Expressions, Phrasal Verbs & Idioms:

1.) "Dead-end job": A job which has no room for growth or opportunity to advance to a higher position.

"I am sick of this dead-end job. I want to something other than deliver pizza's with my life."