

Acing Interviews- Interview English for Your First and Future Jobs

Section 1: Essential Business Vocabulary *Common Terms for Talking about Employment*

To begin with, "Employment status" refers to an individual's current work situation while the term 'Professional standing' refers to someone's reputation, rank, or credibility within their field rather than their job status.

What do you do?

In conversational English, if you want to ask about someone's job, this is commonly phrased as **"What do you do?"** or **"What do you do for a living?"**

You can answer with one of the "I work..." phrases we just learned, or you can say "I'm **a/an**..." (your job title)."

- I'm **a teacher**.
- I'm **an accountant**.

If your current job does **not** utilize your skills or is part-time when you need a full-time job, you can say:

I'm **underemployed**.

Answering this question could be challenging if you don't have a job. However, you can simply answer saying:

- I'm unemployed.

or

- I'm between jobs at the moment.

You can also mention the reason why you don't have a job instead of saying that you are unemployed.

These reasons include:

- I'm **a student**.
- I'm **a housewife**.
- I'm **a stay-at-home mom/dad**.

If you work for yourself, you can say **"I'm self-employed."** If you have your own company, you can say, **"I own a small business,"** or more specifically, **"I own a restaurant"** or **"I own a graphic design company."**



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Where do you work?

"Where do you work?" This seems like a simple question, but there are many ways to answer it:

- I work **at**...
- I work **in**...
- I work **for**...
- I work **with**...

You're going to learn when to use each preposition.

I work **at/for**... (name of company)

For example, "I work **at** Espresso English" or "I work **for** Nike." You can also use "for" if you work directly for a famous person: "I work **for** Tom Cruise. I'm his public relations manager."

I work **in**... **a place**:

- I work **in an office**.
- I work in **a school**.
- I work in **a factory**.

- I work in **a city/country**:

e.g. I work in **Paris**.
I work in **France**.

a department:

- I work in **the marketing department**.



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- I work in **human resources**.
- I work in **sales**.

a general area/industry:

- I work in **finance**.
- I work in **medical research**.
- I work in **consulting**.

I work with... (things / people that are the objects of your day-to-day work)

- I work with **computers**.
- I'm a teacher. I work with **special-needs children**.

If you want to add more details about your work, you can say "I'm responsible for..." or "I'm in charge of..." or "My job involves..."

- **I'm responsible for** updating the company website.
- **I'm in charge of** interviewing candidates for jobs.
- **My job involves** giving tours of the museum.

After these phrases, use the -ING form of the verb.

Let's review:

- I work **at** (a company).
- I work **for** (a company / a person)
- I work **in** (a place, city, country, department, or general area/industry)
- I work **with** (people / things)
- Employment status refers to an individual's current work situation.
- "Professional standing" is broader and typically refers to someone's reputation, rank, or credibility within their field rather than their job status.

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- Common employment status” terms include:
 - Employed: Currently working for an employer.
 - Unemployed: Actively seeking work but not currently employed.
 - Underemployed: Working in a job that does not utilize one's skills or is part-time when full-time work is desired.
 - Self-employed: Running one's own business or working as a freelancer.
- - Inactive: Not actively seeking work or not available for work.
- - Understanding these terms is essential for discussions about labor markets, job searches, and economic conditions.

Do you like your job?

Do you like your job? Here are some different ways to talk about how you feel about your work and describe your job:



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- My job is **interesting / exciting**.
- I find my work very **rewarding**.
(*this means it satisfies you and makes you feel good*)
- The work is quite **challenging**.
(*"challenging" can be a way to say it's difficult, but with a positive connotation; you enjoy the difficulty*)
- My job is **tough / tiring / demanding**.
- The work is rather **dull / boring / repetitive**.
(*"dull" is another way to say "boring," and "repetitive" means you do the same type of task multiple times; there's not much variation*)

This is the end of Part A of Lesson 1 of the Interview English for your First and Future Jobs Course!

Activities:

Section 1-Essential Business Vocabulary: Activity about Key Terms for Employment & Income while answering common interview questions:

<https://app.briskteaching.com/ws/LV6JHB>

Interactive Activity about answering challenging interview questions -1 (education, accomplishments and future):

<https://app.briskteaching.com/ws/KWSZVZ>

Activity about key vocabulary for Job Interviews including practice for: Tell me a little about yourself.

<https://app.briskteaching.com/ws/TJQVKP>