



B1-B2 • Business English

The Gig Economy

1. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

1. What kinds of gig work exist today?
2. Why do people choose gigs over full-time jobs?
3. What protections should gig workers have?
4. How do platforms set prices?
5. What are the downsides for companies?

2. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

Match the words with their meanings:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| ___ 1. platform | a. ability to choose when or how to work |
| ___ 2. surge pricing | b. process of joining and learning a system |
| ___ 3. take rate | c. percentage a platform keeps from payments |
| ___ 4. onboarding | d. temporary price increase during high demand |
| ___ 5. rating system | e. revenue and cost per transaction |
| ___ 6. disintermediation | f. digital marketplace connecting buyers and workers |
| ___ 7. liability | g. legal responsibility for harm or loss |
| ___ 8. flexibility | h. scores given by users |
| ___ 9. algorithm | i. set of rules that guides decisions |
| ___ 10. unit economics | j. bypassing a platform to work directly |

3. READING

Flexibility, Fragility, and the Rules

Gig platforms trade flexibility for stability. Workers pick hours and clients, but income can swing with demand and ratings. Platforms take a cut, manage onboarding, and use

algorithms to match work with workers.

The policy debate centers on protections: minimum pay floors, insurance, and transparency around surge pricing and take rates. For companies, the gig model is agile, but unit economics are fragile if disintermediation grows. The future will likely blend gigs with portable benefits and clearer rules.

Fairness hinges on transparency: clear take rates, predictable surge rules, and appeal processes for ratings. Workers benefit from portable benefits and skill ladders that raise pay over time. Companies must guard against disintermediation by adding real value—insurance, dispute resolution, and steady demand. Algorithms should be explained in plain language so people can plan, not guess.

4. COMPREHENSION

1. What do platforms provide and take?
2. Why can income vary for gig workers?
3. Which protections are debated?
4. Why can unit economics be fragile?
5. What blend does the text predict?

5. VOCABULARY REVIEW

Fill in the blanks with words from the vocabulary list:

1. The app is a ____ for matching work and workers.
2. During events, ____ raises fares.
3. The platform's ____ is 20% of each job.
4. New drivers complete ____ to learn the rules.
5. A ____ can affect access to future gigs.
6. Some clients try ____ to avoid platform fees.
7. Companies want to reduce legal ____.
8. Workers value the ____ to choose hours.
9. An ____ assigns jobs based on demand.
10. Healthy ____ keep platforms sustainable.

6. WORD FORMATION

One cell is blank in each row. Complete the missing form.

Verb	Noun	Adjective
____	protection	protective
rate	_____	rated

flex	flexibility	_____
_____	insurance	insured
regulate	_____	regulated

7. COLLOCATIONS

Match the words that go together:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. portable | a. pricing |
| 2. transparent | b. pay |
| 3. minimum | c. marketplace |
| 4. algorithmic | d. benefits |
| 5. two-sided | e. matching |

8. ERROR CORRECTION

Find and correct the mistakes:

1. Drivers is rating by customers every trip.
2. Platforms don't discloses take rate clearly.
3. If workers would know the algorithm, they earn more.
4. There are many liabilitys for companies.
5. Unit economic are fragile during downturns.

9. GRAMMAR REVIEW

Complete the sentences:

1. If regulators _____ (set) a pay floor, earnings stabilize.
2. Only after onboarding _____ (finish) can drivers accept trips.
3. Had the platform _____ (share) fees, trust would improve.
4. If demand _____ (surge), prices may rise.
5. They worried because ratings _____ (drop).

10. PASSIVE VOICE TRANSFORMATIONS

Change to passive voice:

1. Customers rate workers after each job.
2. The company will introduce portable benefits.
3. The platform hides the take rate.

11. DISCUSSION

1. What rights should gig workers have?
2. How should platforms share fee information?
3. When is disintermediation ethical?
4. Could your job be 'gig-ified'?

12. CRITICAL THINKING

In 150-200 words, analyze a gig platform you know: pros, cons, and what protections or rules you'd add.

Answer Key

Vocabulary Preview: 1-f, 2-d, 3-c, 4-b, 5-h, 6-j, 7-g, 8-a, 9-i, 10-e

Vocabulary Review: 2. platform; 3. surge pricing; 4. take rate; 5. onboarding; 6. rating system; 7. disintermediation; 8. liability; 9. flexibility; 10. algorithm; 11. unit economics

Word Formation: protect/protection/protective; rate/rating/rated; flex/flexibility/flexible; insure/insurance/insured; regulate/regulation/regulated

Collocations: 1-d, 2-a, 3-b, 4-e, 5-c

Error Correction: Drivers are rated by customers every trip. | Platforms don't disclose take rates clearly. | If workers knew the algorithm, they would earn more. | There are many liabilities for companies. | Unit economics are fragile during downturns.

Grammar Review: 2. set; 3. finishes; 4. shared; 5. surges; 6. dropped

Passive Voice: 1. Workers are rated after each job.; 2. Portable benefits will be introduced.; 3. The take rate is hidden by the platform.