

Describing my working conditions

COMMUNICATION

LEVEL
Upper-intermediate

NUMBER
EN_BE_3105X

LANGUAGE
English

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Goals

- Can recognise and understand standard expressions to describe advantages and disadvantages of different jobs
- Can use new terminology to clearly describe my position and the different aspects of my job





Everyone has a unique relationship to their job.



What's more important to you? **Work-life balance**, or the **opportunity for promotion**?



Do you get **recognised for your hard work**?

If you're lucky, your job hits the **right balance** for you.





Warm-up discussion

What do you do?

Talk to the teacher about your job.





Tell your teacher

Most of us have had a range of different professional roles in our life.

Tell your teacher about your job history using the prompts below.



The job where you learned the most?

Favourite job?

Worst job?



Dream job

**What's your dream
job?
What makes it so
desirable?**



Career prospects and progression

A warm work culture

Money and remuneration

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Let's talk business

**Is a large salary the
most important
aspect of a job?**



New words

work-life balance

My biggest priority is a healthy **work-life balance**.

social benefits

They offered me a contract with a generous **social benefits** package.

**positive
environment**

Nothing is better for your wellbeing than a **positive environment** in the workplace.

good salary

One thing I miss at the end of the month is a **good salary**.

**promotion
chances**

This dynamic environment offers a range of **promotion chances** and opportunities

**recognition for
hard work**

The manager ensures I get valuable **recognition for my hard work**.

work-life balance

Work-life balance is a concept which promotes a balanced share of energy between work life and home life. Recognising that career and work is only one segment of a healthy life, promoters of work-life balance strive to divide their time positively between work and home.



Polly's priority was a healthy **work-life balance**.

social benefits

Many companies grant employees with a range **of social benefits**.

These can include:

- Health insurance
- Social security
- Superannuation
- Dental plans
- Pension



They have offered me a generous **social benefits package**.



Social benefits

Do you claim any **social benefits** from your job?

Are they important to you?





Positive environment

Many people are lucky enough to feel good about going to work. **Positive work environments** make a big contribution to a positive attitude. Nice **surroundings** boost **enthusiasm, performance** and the **health** of the team.

Those who are happy in their work environment have far better chances of success in their chosen field. A **negative** work environment, on the other hand, can lead to **stress, unhappiness** and career **disruption**.

The feeling of being **valued** for your contributions and commitment to your job is integral to feeling **happy** and **comfortable** in your work environment. This includes the following conditions:

- Positive **relationships** with co-workers and supervisors.
- Feeling there is **room for personal growth** and development.
- **Open communication** and a team spirit.
- **Recognition** for hard work.



New words

duties

I face a range of challenging **duties** each day.

flexible working hours

Having the freedom of **flexible working hours** is very important to me.

incentives

The company offers great **incentives** for hard work.

work remotely

Millie was able to spend some weeks living in Portugal as she **works remotely**.

manageable workload

My boss is realistic and always grants us a **manageable workload**.

transparent communication

I appreciate the clear instructions and **transparent communication** in the office.



Remote work



Have you ever **worked remotely?**

Does it interest you?

Why?



Teamwork

Does your work have a **positive environment**?

Talk to the teacher about a time you felt part of a united **team**.

How did it make you **feel**?

What made the team **work so well**?





Categorise

Read each box to the teacher.

Try to prioritise the aspects which are most important to you. Explain your answers to the teacher.

There are incentives for good performance

I feel like I learn a lot every day

The job gives me time to focus on my hobbies and other interests

The job allows me to work remotely

I never have to stay late

It opens doors to future opportunities in my field

My boss is really friendly and approachable

The company pays generously into health insurance and other social benefits

I am friends with my colleagues

The hours are flexible

I earn a lot of money

The hours are short

Important

Less important

transparent communication

manageable workloads

It's important to feel like **communication** in a workplace is clear and everyone is hearing the same thing. **Open** and **transparent communication** in the workplace creates a more dynamic team culture, where employees at any level of the company hierarchy feel respected. When information is controlled by directors or managers and not shared, it can stifle innovation and create a culture of secrecy.

Manageable workloads are necessary to avoid becoming **overwhelmed**. Stress and overwork diminishes the quality of the end product and drains employee health and enthusiasm.



I am very impressed that the directors are sticking to their **transparent communication** policy.



While it's a challenging role, all in all it is an extremely **manageable workload**.

advantages

disadvantages

Jobs can offer a varied range of **advantages**, from flexible hours and lifestyle benefits to a high salary or warm and inviting work culture. In the context of a job these are often referred to as **perks**.

On the other end of the spectrum, most jobs also come with **disadvantages**. These might include long working hours, inadequate compensation or a lack of benefits.



I love my job, except for one **disadvantage** – the salary just doesn't cut it.

Getting to work and feeling like you're a member of a family is a definite **advantage**.



Values questionnaire

	AGREE	DISAGREE
1. A positive work environment is less important than a good salary.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. I couldn't last very long in a workplace that didn't recognise hard work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. I value a positive work-life balance over an ambitious career.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. I find it difficult to cope with unmanageable workloads.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. I work better with a flexible working environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. I feel my job has more pros than cons.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Remember...

Advantages and **disadvantages** are also referred to as **pros** and **cons**.





Tell your teacher

Talk about the pros and cons of your job.



Incentives? Recognition? Salary?
Opportunities?

Some of the
positive aspects
of my job
include...

One thing that
could be better
about my job
is...



Play with images

Imagine you are one of the people in the images. Try to be in their shoes for a moment and describe the pros and cons of their profession. Can you compare the jobs below with your own job?





Enquire about someone's position

Ask your teacher about their position.

Advantages of their job?

What do they
enjoy about
working for
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Flexible
timetables?

Recognition for
hard work?



Respond

**Can you describe
your own job in
detail?**

Try to clearly
describe the
aspects of your job
below.

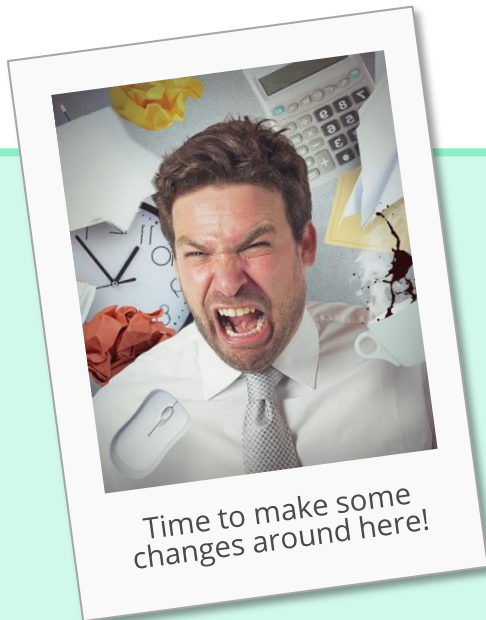
Working hours

Tasks and duties

The size of your
team



New job!



Imagine you started work at a new company.

You are having the worst time! Explain to the teacher some of the ways in which it is not living up to your expectations.

Suggest how the company's atmosphere might improve if some of the following factors would change.

Positive work environment

The option for flexible working hours

More transparent and open communication

Sustainable workloads



Imagine...

Think back to
some of the new
vocabulary you
have learnt...

Think of a profession you would like to have. Your teacher or classmate will have to ask you questions and guess what job you are thinking of. Go ahead!

What do you love most about your job?

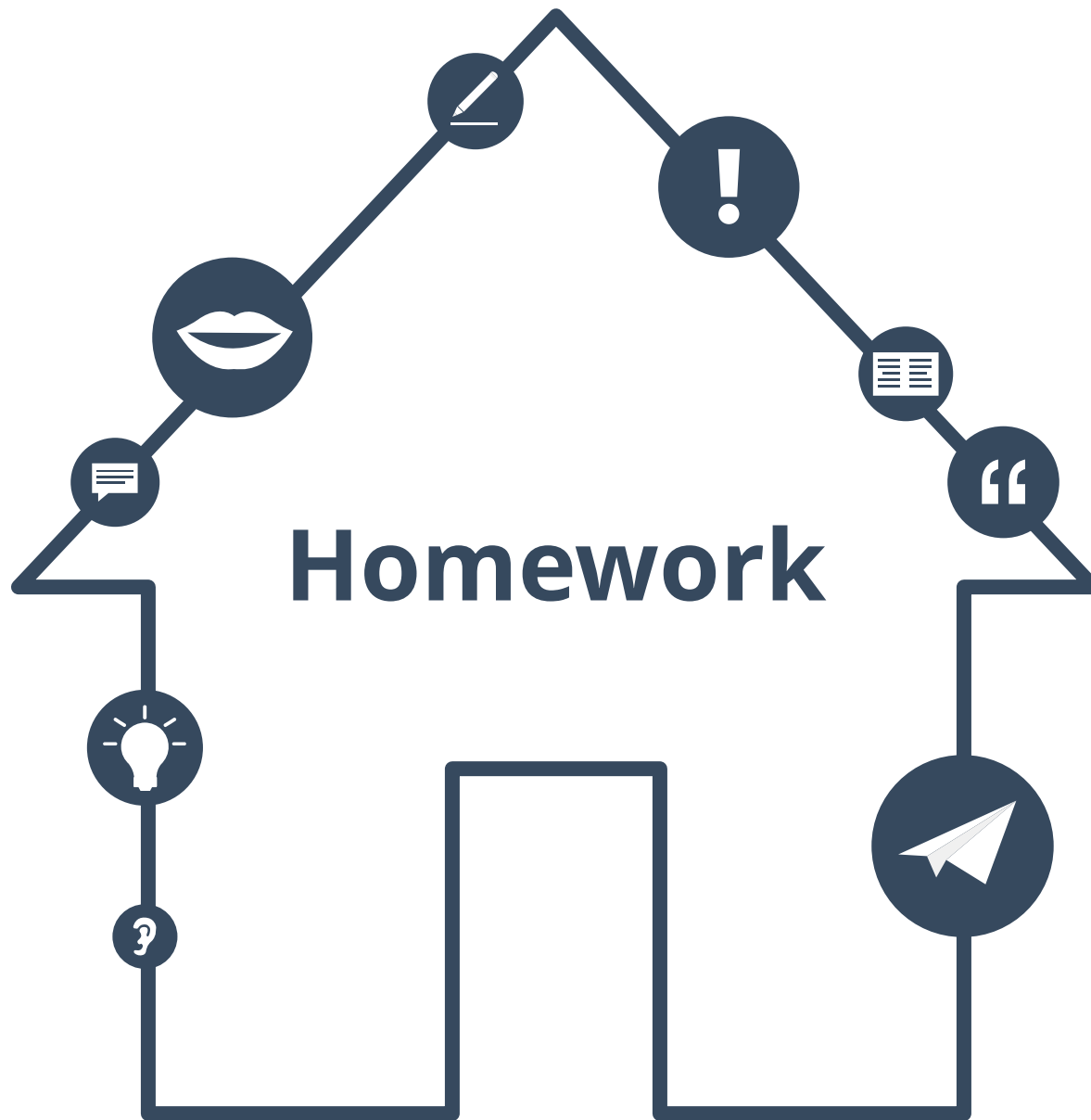


Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!







Reflect

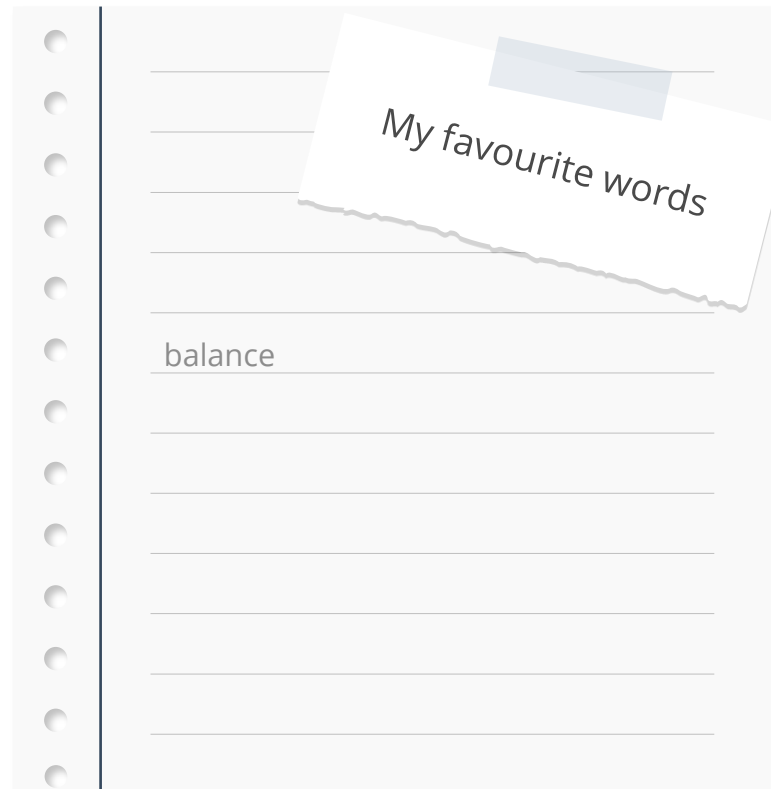
**Write two things you enjoyed and learnt about in this lesson.
Write two things which were more difficult to understand.**





Vocabulary review

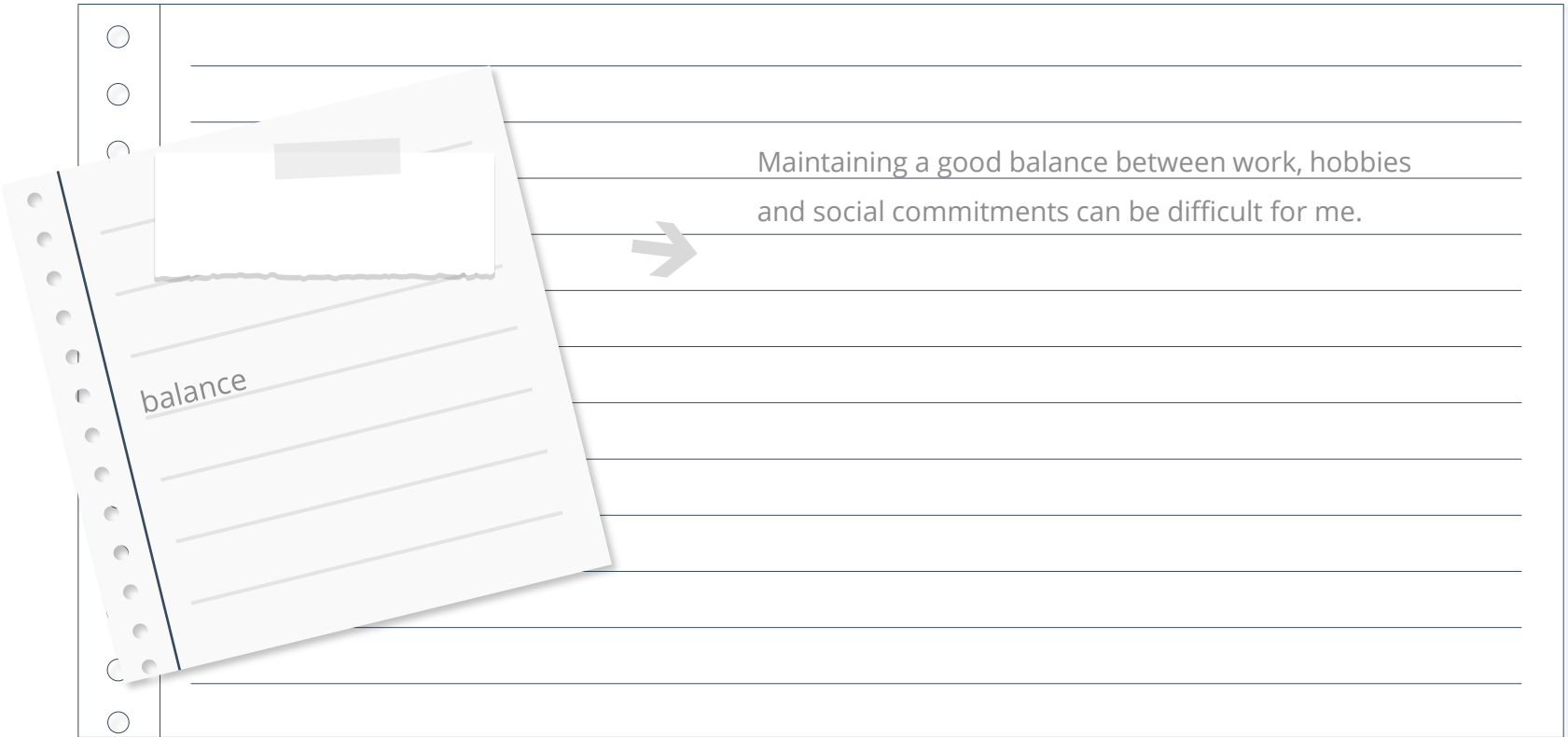
Update your list of favourite words with some of the vocabulary from this lesson!





Words into sentences

Place the vocabulary from the last slide into a sentence.



Maintaining a good balance between work, hobbies and social commitments can be difficult for me.



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