

Name: _____

A. Speaking (before we listen)

<http://www.wnyc.org/story/ny-gov-issues-new-measures-to-protect-salon-workers/>

1. Are there any jobs with bad and / or illegal working conditions in your country?
What are the jobs and what are the conditions?

2. What are some other examples of bad working conditions, but for “good” jobs?

B. Listening for Facts: (while we listen / after we listen)

1. Where do the women work? How often?

2. What three things do the emergency measures hope to help with?

3. According to the story, why was it a good idea to publish the story in several languages?

4. Why might salon owners think their actions are heroic?

5. In what three ways could customers help with the problem?

Fill in the gaps:

On what inspired her to investigate this story

"It's a little bit of a funny story. I was getting a pedicure at a 24/hour _____, which is an unusual salon in Koreatown in New York City. And it was in the morning, and I said to the woman, 'this is such a crazy salon, 24 hours, who does the night shift?' She said, 'I do the _____ shift.' And I said, 'But it's day.' And she said, 'I work 24 hours a day, six days a week. I sleep in a barracks above the salon. They shake me awake for night treatments, and on the seventh day, I go home and sleep for _____, and I come right back.' And I thought, this woman is enslaved. And I went back to my _____ and they said, 'why don't you see if it's a larger phenomenon.' And I did. And it was."

On what specifically Gov. Cuomo's emergency measures hope to achieve

"So there are a couple different things these emergency measures touch. They touch _____. So workers in New York state are going to be required in salons to wear gloves ... salons are going to be required to be ventilated. One of the additional provisions of the _____ aspect is they want workers to wear masks, but that seems strange to me given that a lot of experts in occupational health say those masks do nothing. They're just almost for _____ of the appearance of safety. They don't actually protect against the toxins or potential _____ threats in nail salons. But the governor's office told me that the health department will be conducting a study of best practices, so this is just a _____ measure on an emergency basis."

"The other thing that's going to happen is that every salon is going to be required to have posters in six different _____ telling workers their rights. Things like, it's illegal to have to pay money for your job, which my _____ showed is almost standard policy in salons and what minimum wage is."

On publishing the work in several languages

"I had the idea that we should publish this in several languages because they didn't know their story, I found. I was finding out all this information, especially about the race-based hiring system, as I said in my investigation — people are paid _____ depending on what race they are. And people didn't know it was a systemic problem, the workers themselves, so we hoped they would read it. The third most read story on The New York Times' site was the Korean version, in fact, so I believe they are reading it. A couple of my subjects have written me to say they felt _____."

On what salon owners may believe about the work conditions they place workers under

"I don't think they'll say they're providing a sense of community, because in salons, it's a very hostile environment and that sort of barbershop, chit-chat mentality doesn't happen in nail salons. But, I think they do say that they believe themselves to be _____ in a sense. They say, 'we're hiring an _____ class of people, who are undocumented, don't speak the language, don't have many

transferable skills, and we're giving them a chance at a life here.' And they do feel that they are doing the best they can."

On how a person can figure out if they're salon is treating workers fairly

"I don't have very good answers. I wrote a little piece that talked about three ways you could try to be a more conscientious _____. One, I said you could interview your worker and ask her or him, and if you find out wage fraud you can call the department of labor. No. 2: Many people bring up _____ more, but the truth is, that would be taking the onus off the owners to pay their workers more. And then one of the other thoughts that I had was you can look potentially, as experts say, for a place with higher _____ for manicures. Across the nation, the manicure price is around \$20. Here in the most expensive city perhaps in the United States, we're paying \$10 for a manicure. If the math doesn't add up, that's because someone else is bearing the cost of the discount, and in the nail salon industry, it's always the worker."

C. After – Speaking for Understanding (after we finish the questions above)

1. The speaker says the women in these conditions are like slaves. Do you agree? Why / not?

2. Do you think the emergency measures above are enough?

3. The report is published in multiple languages. Why might some people be angry about this? The United States has only one official language.

4. Do you agree that the salon owners' actions are heroic?

5. Do you think the suggestions for being a good customer would be helpful or not? Why / not?