

competitive (adj)	hire (v)	strike (n)
contract (n)	negotiate (v)	temporary (adj)
disagreement (n)	permanent (adj)	union (n)
dismiss (v)	profession (n)	wage (n)
efficient (adj)	shift (n)	workplace (n)
flexible (adj)	stand up for (phr v)	

### A Complete the text using words and phrases from the boxes.

go out on strike negotiate permanent profession  
stood up for trade unions wages

There was a time when most jobs were <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. People trained for a trade or a <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and they stayed in the same job for their whole working life. Workers were members of <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ who <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ their rights. If there was a disagreement about working hours or <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, they'd <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ until the management agreed to <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.

contracts dismissed flexible hired more efficient  
shifts stay competitive temporary workplace

But the <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ is changing. We're all expected to be more <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ – to adapt to the needs of the market. For example, more people are working <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ instead of more regular hours. With advances in technology, businesses are always pushing to be <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. They want to produce more for less cost in order to <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. That means that many jobs are now <sup>13</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. Workers are <sup>14</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ on short-term <sup>15</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and <sup>16</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ when they're no longer needed.

### B Complete the explanations. Use one word or phrase from the vocabulary list at the top of the page for each space. Add any other words necessary.

- When you \_\_\_\_\_ with someone, you are trying to reach an agreement.
- The main role of a union is to \_\_\_\_\_ workers' rights.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ company is as successful as other similar businesses.
- If workers go \_\_\_\_\_, they stop working.
- Someone in a \_\_\_\_\_ usually has a high level of education and skill.
- Someone in a \_\_\_\_\_ job has a \_\_\_\_\_ for a short period of time.
- If a worker is \_\_\_\_\_, they do their job well without wasting time, money or energy.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ can be an office, a factory, a shop, etc.
- When someone works \_\_\_\_\_, they don't work normal office hours.

### C Choose the best words or phrases to complete the sentences.

The concept of the 'gig economy' has appeared in recent years to describe the kind of short-term, <sup>1</sup>permanent / temporary jobs that have become increasingly common. Unlike traditional <sup>2</sup>permanent / temporary roles which gave people security and a regular income, workers in the 'gig economy' are often <sup>3</sup>hired / negotiated on so-called 'zero-hours' <sup>4</sup>contracts / workplace. This means that instead of having regular working hours and taking home the same <sup>5</sup>salary / wages every week, they are required to be <sup>6</sup>competitive / flexible and to work only when they're needed. That's great for employers who want to stay <sup>7</sup>competitive / temporary; they can make their business as <sup>8</sup>efficient / permanent as possible by only paying staff for the time they're needed. It's not so good for workers who find themselves on <sup>9</sup>small / low wages, with few rights and little power to <sup>10</sup>negotiate / stand up for. They aren't usually members of a <sup>11</sup>profession / union and they're always worried about being <sup>12</sup>dismissed / efficient.

