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Work



Unit /

Aims and Objectives

In this unit you will learn:

1. Genre/Style: Exposition
2. Word power: The Usage of “it”
3. Grammar Focus: Emphatic Sentences
4. Writing Skill: Résumés
5. Translation Skills: Text / Discourse Translation (1)
6. Reading Skill: Résumés

Brief Introductions to the Texts

The three passages in this unit are designed to be examples of expositive writings, i.e. to present information. The first passage, “Why People Work”, explains that most people are aware that work provides material things needed to sustain life, but are much less conscious of the extent to which it provides for psychological needs. Historically work has taken on a negative connotation. In the past much of the work was done by slaves. Work was a punishment. However, more recently psychologists and behavioral scientists have begun to focus on the positive aspects of work. Work is a source of satisfaction and gives people a sense of accomplishment. Work often gives people a chance to show that they can overcome problems and they enjoy proving their competence.

In the second passage the author talks about issues of copyright as they relate to the Internet. Most countries of the world have copyright laws, but they were written to regu-



Unit **1** *Work*



Task 1





Work

late the use of printed or “analogue” materials not digital transmissions. When any information is accessed on the Internet a copy is made into the computer. The author indicates that this copy, assuming that it has been legally accessed, is not a violation of copyright, but recommends asking permission to copy. In the United States the Digital Millennium Copyright Act has been adopted to protect Intellectual Property Rights. Other countries may also develop similar laws. The author points out that even with laws which prohibit copying it is almost impossible to prevent. Privacy and Security are also discussed in the passage. Email, one of the largest uses of the Internet, is not private. Encryption programs have been developed to help obtain privacy, however, it is estimated that over 20 percent of network messages are copied and stored by someone other than the sender or the intended recipient.

The author of “Four Minutes That Get You Hired” argues that first impressions are often lasting ones. Opinions about what kind of person you are are formed by others in the first four minutes after you meet. Advice is given to prospective employees regarding interviews for employment. You should look your best, monitor your body language, and say what you mean.

Part A

Intensive Reading

Reading

Pre-Reading

Try to imagine how you would fill 24 hours a day, every day, if you didn't have to work.

- Go off to the beach in summer, the movies in winter, watch TV on rainy days.
- Stay at school, pursuing studies.



Part A



Task 2



- Read a lot of books or magazines.
- Sleep and do housecleaning.
- Travel all over the world.
- ...

But would you? Where would the money come from to pay your bus fares, to get into the movies, to buy your TV or to pay for the electricity, or buy your books? So, in our society, is MONEY the NUMBER ONE reason for working!? Have a discussion with your partner about it.

Look at this list of “rewards” that people might get from work, discuss them with your partner, pick out and number in ORDER of IMPORTANCE your TOP FIVE reasons to work.

- lets me use my special abilities, skills and knowledge
- makes me feel that I’m doing something useful
- keeps me busy and helps fill the time
- lets me be creative
- involves doing a variety of tasks
- allows me to meet a lot of people
- lets me experience new things and learn more
- lets me accomplish things as a result of my efforts
- allows me to be responsible
- gives me power/influence over others
- provides opportunities to make friends
- lets me help people
- provides money
- allows me to be with others
- provides physical activity for me
- allows me to contribute to the community
- lets me control my own time
- allows me to satisfy my other needs
- offers me chances for improvement and/or promotion
- allows me to be known and liked by many people



Unit **1** *Work*



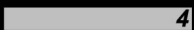
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Work

Reading and Thinking

Why People Work

Jobs and work do much more than most of us realize to provide happiness and contentment. We're all used to thinking that work provides the material things of life — the goods and services that make possible our version of modern civilization. But we are much less conscious of the extent to which work provides the more intangible, but more crucial, psychological well-being that can make the difference between a full and an empty life.

Why is it that most of us don't put work and human satisfaction together, except when it comes to the end product of work: automobiles and houses and good food?

It's always useful to blame someone else, and the Greeks of the ancient world deserve some blame here. At that time work was restricted to slaves and to those few free citizens who had not yet accumulated adequate independent resources. The "real" citizens of Greece — whom Plato¹ and others talked about — expected to spend their time in free discussion and contemplation.

Historically, work has been associated with slavery and sin, compulsion and punishment. And in our own day we are used to hearing the traditional complaints: "I can't wait for my vacation." "I wish I could stay home today." "My boss treats me poorly." "I've got too much work to do and not enough time to do it." Against this backdrop, it may well come as a surprise to learn that not only psychologists but other behavioral scientists have come to accept the positive contribution of work to the individual's happiness and sense of personal achievement. Work is more than a necessity for most human beings;

Which is the thesis sentence of the passage?

What is the relationship between Par. 2 and 3?

What does "backdrop" refer to?

1. **Plato** /'pleitau/: (427 — 347BC) Greek philosopher, who had a very great influence on European philosophy. He explained his ideas in the form of dialogue. After Socrates' (his teacher) death he established a school called the Academy, where Aristotle was one of his students. His most famous work is *The Republic*, which is mainly about the perfect state and form of government.



Part A



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it is the focus of their lives, the source of their identity and creativity.

For large numbers of people, the absence of work is debilitating. Retirement often brings many problems surrounding the “What do I do with myself?” question, even though there may be no financial cares. Large numbers of people regularly get headaches and other psychosomatic illnesses on weekends when they don’t have their jobs to go to, and must take care of themselves. It has been observed that unemployment, quite aside from exerting financial pressures, brings enormous psychological discomfort and that many individuals deteriorate rapidly when jobless.

But why? Why should work be such a significant source of human satisfaction? A good share of the answer rests in the kind of pride that is stimulated by the job, by the activity of accomplishing. After all, large numbers of people continue working when there is no financial or other compulsion. They are independently wealthy; no one would be surprised if they spent their time at leisure. But something inside drives them to work: the unique satisfactions they derive from it.

Pride in Accomplishment

The human being longs for a sense of being accomplished, of being able to do things, with his hand, with his mind, with his will. Each of us wants to feel he or she has the ability to do something that is meaningful and that stands outside of us as a tribute to our inherent abilities. This extension of ourselves—in what our hands and minds can do — fills out our personality and expands our ego.

It is easiest to see this in the craftsman who lovingly shapes some base material into an object that may be either useful or beautiful or both. You can see the carpenter or bricklayer stand aside and admire the product of his personal skill.

We’ve watched programmers and engineers work fifteen and eighteen hours at a stretch, seven days a week, when a job really got tough and they knew that a crucial deadline had to be met, or when a major project would fail unless some tough problems were solved.

What’s the function of the following paragraphs?