



Episode 13: Jobs and Careers

Hi! If this is your first time listening to our podcast, this is an opportunity for upper level English learners to practice listening skills and learn new vocabulary by listening to authentic conversations. For more information about ways to use this podcast, download notes for [students](#) or [teachers](#).

In today's episode Donielle and Khrystyna have a conversation about jobs and careers, and we talk about dream jobs and our own experiences with different jobs.

Here are a few phrases about the topic that you may find useful:

Talking about terminating employment	<p>to fire someone - to be/get fired: Termination of employment, usually due to bad behavior or poor performance of the employee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They fired the head coach. The head coach was fired. <p>to lay [someone] off – to be laid off: Termination of employment, usually due to financial reasons; the company is trying to save money, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In an effort to save the struggling company, the CEO made the difficult decision to lay off 200 employees. • Last month 200 people were laid off at XYZ company. <p>to let [someone] go – to be let go: Termination of employment with a more neutral connotation. It may or may not be due to an employee's actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His company let him go. He was let go.
Idioms related to work	
go the extra mile	<p>Do more than what is required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She's always willing to go the extra mile to help her co-workers
pull [one's] weight	<p>Do [one's] fair share of work that a group of people are doing together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If he doesn't start pulling his weight soon, he's going to get fired.
burn the candle at both ends	<p>Do too much (often early morning to late night) for a long period of time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I've been burning the candle at both ends for a while, and it's causing my health to suffer.
have a lot on your plate	<p>have something, usually a large amount of important work, to deal with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between the two big projects she is leading and trying to hire a new manager, the boss has a lot on her plate right now.
rat race	<p>The fierce competition for success, wealth, or power.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He decided to get out of the rat race to spend more time with his family.

I found a nice list of even [more idioms](#) used in business. There are a few spelling errors, and a small number are not common in the U.S., but generally the examples and explanations are good.

See the following pages for vocabulary and language focus from this episode.



Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation

in the way	<p>in a position that prevents something from happening or someone from moving</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's hard to work on the computer because my cat is <u>in the way</u>. • I'd like to travel more, but work always gets <u>in the way</u>.
go for it	<p>put in the time and effort necessary to achieve something. Also commonly used as a way to encourage someone to try to gain or achieve something.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some people knew from the beginning what they wanted to do, and they just <u>went for it</u>. • A: I'm thinking of applying for the job. B: Yes, <u>go for it!</u>
be into something	<p>be interested in something</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When I was a kid, I <u>was really into</u> mysteries.
trendy	<p>currently popular or fashionable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I wanted to own a club, but not something <u>trendy</u> - something cool & unique.
vintage	<p>used to describe something that is not new but that is valued because of its good condition, attractive design, especially from a past style, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I used to dream about owning a <u>vintage</u> clothing store.
throwback (N.) old school (Adj.)	<p>a person or thing having the characteristics of a former time (usually approving) characteristic of an earlier style, manner, or form</p>
That ship has sailed.	<p>That opportunity has already passed. A: You could still open a club. B: Well, I think <u>that ship has sailed</u>.</p>
decadence	<p>luxurious self-indulgence; the adjective form (decadent) is more common.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The buffet is filled with <u>decadent</u> desserts.
forensic scientist	<p>someone whose job it is to use various types of natural and physical sciences to analyze crime scene evidence</p>
It checks (all) the boxes.	<p>It satisfies or fulfills everything that is necessary or desired</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [That career] <u>checks all the boxes</u>. (It has all the things we look for or hope for in a career)
talk (someone) into/out of (something)	<p>To persuade someone to do something they don't want to do, OR persuade them <u>not</u> to do something they want to do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I was so serious about becoming a politician that my parents had to <u>talk me out of it</u>.
pick [a skill] up by ear	<p>to learn something, especially in an informal way (without training, lessons, etc.)</p> <p>ability to speak a language (or play music) without any formal training, but just by hearing it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I didn't study Polish, but I <u>picked it up by ear</u>.
tiptoe around (someone)	<p>Expression that means to be very careful not to upset someone or cause a problem. Similar expression: to walk on eggshells (around/with someone)</p>
on edge	<p>feeling nervous, worried, or afraid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The employees were always <u>on edge</u> when the boss was around.

Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation

put up with	Phrasal Verb: to accept or tolerate an unpleasant or annoying situation. (<i>Listen to episode 12 for a more in-depth discussion about this phrasal verb.</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I learned that I shouldn't <u>put up with</u> being mistreated in a job.
spiel	a fast speech that someone has often said before and that is usually intended to persuade people to buy something, agree to something, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He gave me a <u>spiel</u> about all the benefits of the card, but I wasn't interested.
office politics	the use of power and social networking within an organization to achieve changes that benefit the organization or individuals within it <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I enjoyed doing my job, but I didn't like the <u>office politics</u>.
work-life balance	the state where a person chooses to equally prioritize the demands of work and career and the demands of their personal life
burned out	having a complete lack of energy or exhaustion, increased mental distance from one's job, or negative feeling related to one's job due to working too hard or too long
call in (sick)	to inform your workplace that you are unable to go to work that day, usually due to being ill. (regional variations: call out sick/call off sick) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I feel miserable today; I'm going to <u>call in</u>.
[play the] martyr	Disapproving: describing a person who pretends to suffer or who exaggerates suffering in order to get praise or sympathy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whenever I had to call in, she would <u>play the martyr</u> and tell everyone how she had to stay late and wouldn't take a lunch so she could cover for me.
perks	something extra that someone receives in addition to regular pay for doing a job <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new job has lots of <u>perks</u>, such as a private office and a company car.
wrap up [something]	Phrasal Verb: complete or finish something; bring to a close (such as a meeting, class, presentation etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We're coming to the end of our time, so I need to <u>wrap this up</u>.
call it a day	to decide to stop working, especially because you've done enough or you're tired <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's getting late, so let's <u>call it a day</u> and we can continue this tomorrow.
whatnot	(informal) any of the other things that might also be mentioned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check the show notes for vocabulary explanations, more phrasal verbs, expressions and <u>whatnot</u>.
tidbits	small pieces of news or interesting information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check out the show notes for more information about this topic and other interesting <u>tidbits</u>.

Vocabulary Focus: Job vs. Work

Knowing when to use the word **job** vs. **work** can be very challenging because the difference is not always clear, and there is some overlap in how we use them. The simplest explanation is that **job** is a noun and **work** is a verb, but there are many times that we use **work** as a noun also. Here is a general guide with example sentences to help you decide which word to use.

JOB (countable noun)

WORK (non-countable noun)

	JOB (countable noun)	WORK (non-countable noun)
profession; the activity that a person does regularly in order to earn money	<p>Specific profession or employment position:</p> <p>I'm looking for a job in the accounting field.</p> <p>I need a new job.</p> <p>I've had many jobs in my life.</p> <p>He's a firefighter; it's a very dangerous job.</p>	<p>Focus is on what you <u>do</u> rather than the position or specific role for which you are being paid.</p> <p>What kind of work do you do? (BUT more commonly asked: <i>What do you do?</i>)</p> <p>My job doesn't pay much, but the work is rewarding.</p>
specific task, assignment, or duties to perform	<p>My manager gave me the job of organizing all the files.</p> <p>It's not my job to supervise them.</p>	<p>I have a lot of work to do today.</p> <p>a parent's work is never done</p>
to talk about the quality or difficulty of the activity	<p>Switching over to the new accounting system was a big job.</p> <p>You did a great job on that project.</p>	<p>Switching over to the new accounting system was a lot of work.</p> <p>The boss is not happy with your work.</p>
the general concept as a duty or related to schedule	<p>(occasionally used in this way, but see "work" for more common usage)</p>	<p>I'm going to work. I was late for work. I get off work at 5 p.m. I left work early today. Let's meet after work.</p>

Join the Conversation

- When you were growing up, what job (or jobs) did you think you wanted to do? What's your idea of a "dream career"? Has your idea of a dream career changed over the years?
- What was the best job you ever had? What made it the best?
- What was the worst job you ever had? What made it so bad?
- Are there any jobs that you wouldn't ever do, even if you were offered a lot of money?
- Besides salary, what do you think are some of the most important things to look for in a job? For example, what types of working conditions, benefits, and perks would you include if you could create the perfect position?
- How do you think jobs will change in the future? Will it be possible to do more jobs remotely? Will more jobs be automated to require fewer human employees? What types of careers will be more popular in the future? Which jobs do you think will no longer be needed as much or maybe not even needed at all?

Thanks for checking out our podcast!

We are enjoying these discussions, and we hope that you are finding them helpful!



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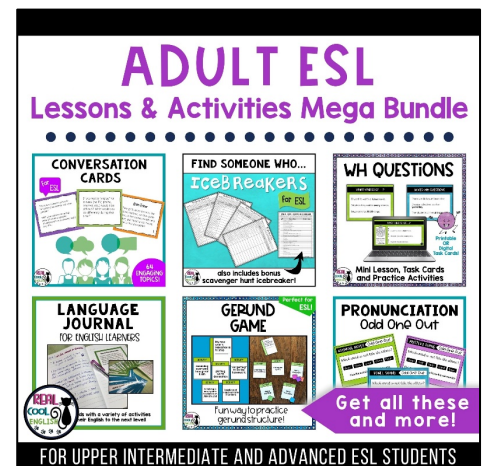
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