

Reading Test 2: Earning, working, learning

Text

1 In Great Britain many young people have part-time jobs. These jobs used to be mainly weekend or holiday ones but today that situation is changing. As many as half of all 16-17-year-olds have some kind of job while they are still at school and as they get older that number becomes much larger. Many of these young people now work up to fifteen hours a week and not just at weekends or in their holidays.

The main areas of work are in the retail industry, for example in shops and in supermarkets. There are many there because many shops and supermarkets stay open longer during the week including Saturdays and also open on Sundays. Traditional part-time workers are often women with children who do not want to work late at night or away from their families at the weekends. Employers need workers for these unattractive times to work. This means, therefore, that there are a lot of jobs for young people which fit nicely around a school day.

Some people are against the idea of students in full-time education having part-time employment. They say that since these students have to work more, they spend less time on their schoolwork. In a perfect world it might be best to learn first and work later but many young people find that they need to earn money. However, the choice to work and learn is their own. No one makes them do it. The better students, though, are usually able to find a balance between work and school and can even benefit from the experience.

Many students find they develop new skills when they start work. They learn to work with other people and often have responsibilities for the first time in their lives. They discover that rules are not just for school but appear in adult life, too. If they do not do their job properly, for example, they can

easily lose it. Working also provides young people with money, which makes them financially independent: how to handle your own money is an important thing to learn. Many students often add to their social life through work and they also learn to understand other people better.

There are other advantages, too. Many students who work part-time around their schoolwork have found out that they become more efficient because they have to plan what they do and use their time better. If you have a lot of time to do something, you usually don't do it until the last moment. But if you only have little time, you use it better.

Schools, of course, do not support the idea of earning and working. They complain of students handing work in late, being tired and not concentrating, spending little time on the work they do at home and, sometimes, even missing lessons. Although schools do not like their students to have part-time work, some teachers do see a positive side and can even link the experiences the students gain to topics in school. Some schools are also trying to work with employers so that their students are allowed to work less around examination times and still keep their jobs.

Although working and learning can go together, it is still not easy. Young people may take the opportunity to work but they must also understand that there are dangers in the world of work. Every week, ten young people are seriously hurt at work in Britain, some even die. Almost 40% of 15-24-year-olds have had no health or safety training by their employers. This figure is almost certainly higher with part-time workers. Part-time workers, especially young people, are easily replaced and, therefore, they do not say, "I won't do that because it's too dangerous".



1. True, false or not in the text?

Tick (✓) the right answer.

- | | true | false | not in
the text |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) The part-time jobs are only weekend and holiday ones. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Most jobs are in shops and supermarkets. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) There are a lot of family businesses involved. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Weekend workers are usually women. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Men get jobs a lot easier than women. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Most young people work part-time just for the money. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Working gives people responsibility. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h) In work you learn to be tolerant of other people. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i) Some students find that they are better organised when they have a job and are still at school. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| j) Schools like the idea of their students working. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| k) British students are allowed to miss lessons if they have to work. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| l) The government helps young people to get work experience. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| m) Students do not get enough information about safety at work. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. Do the following tasks. Answer the questions – short answers or multiple choice – or complete the sentences.

a) Young people work ...

only at weekends.

in their holidays.

at any time during the week.

b) Why are there a lot of part-time jobs for students?

c) Not everyone _____ with students working.

d) What new skills do teenagers develop when they work?

spending money, being efficient

obeying rules, having a social life

teamwork, responsibility

e) Most teachers are against students having part-time jobs because ...

they miss lessons to go to work.

they often don't work as well as other students.

they are only interested in money.

- f) Schools try to help working students at exam times by _____
_____ to allow them to work less.
- g) Many young workers have accidents at work because they don't know
anything about _____ at work.

3. Combine the parts of the sentences.
Put the correct letter below each number.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>(1) Retail work means</p> <p>(2) Most employers want young people</p> <p>(3) Many young people have part-time jobs</p> <p>(4) If you don't do your job well, you can be told</p> <p>(5) If a student has a job, he needs</p> <p>(6) When starting work you need</p> | <p>a) to get money.</p> <p>b) to be well organised.</p> <p>c) to work in shops and super-markets.</p> <p>d) to find out about the safety rules.</p> <p>e) to work at unpopular times.</p> <p>f) to leave.</p> |
|--|---|

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)