

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

WORK – Labour Day

Work. **Job** To do a job. Akiko *works* at the Sushi Station.

Work. **Succeed** Her plan to make friends with people from different countries *worked*.

Work. **Effort** To do something that needs a lot of time and effort. You have to *work* hard to study English.

Labour Day is an annual holiday celebrated all over the world. It remembers the efforts of the labour union movement and celebrates the economic and social achievements of workers. Labour Day began in Melbourne on 21 April 1856.

Stonemasons and building workers stopped *worked* and marched to ask for an eight hour working day. They were successful and were the first organised group to achieve an eight-hour day with no loss of pay.

HOT TOPICS

1. Do you have Labour day or May day in your country? What are the typical working hours in your country?

The many meanings of work.....

Work (Job)

1. Do you have a part-time job in Brisbane? If yes, what work do you do? How are the working conditions similar or different from in your country? If no, what kind of work are you looking for? (*try and pair up with someone who works and someone looking for work*).
2. Do people in Australia work harder than in your country? Compare work hours. (*In threes discuss*)
3. What kind of job do you want to do when you return home? Is it similar to your parents' work? (*in pairs*)
4. Are you being paid fairly?

Work (Succeed)

1. What are your plans for your time in Brisbane?
 - a. Learn English?
 - b. Meet international and Aussie friends?
 - c. Get a job?
 - d. Travel?
 - e. Experience new things?
 - f. Think about your life and purpose?
 - g. Change your life?

Have your plans **worked** out? What is stopping you reaching all your plans? E.g. being anxious, afraid to make mistakes... (*in different pairs*).

Work (effort)

1. How much **work** do you put into:
 - a. Studying English?
 - b. Meeting new people?
 - c. Going to new places?

Do you feel like giving up? How do you keep going? (*in threes discuss*).

Work (Attitude)

Many people learning English have to find a part-time job. They do work they have never done in their own country – maybe cleaning, gardening, farm work, kitchen hand, waitress. These jobs can be very hard. An important way to survive in these jobs is having a good attitude. In the Bible it describes a good attitude towards work as:

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as if you were serving God, not just your employer. For it is Jesus whom you are serving.” (Colossians 3.23 CEV)

1. How can we approach our work?

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