

Happiness is a snip away

Worksheet A

The text below is the beginning of an article about one of the jobs in your list. Which one do you think it is? Complete the gaps with the name of the job or with the name of the person who does it.

Do you want a job that brings you happiness? If so you might want to consider a) _____ as a career. A new league table has said that b) _____ are the happiest workers in the UK.

Text A

Happy hairdressers...

Do you want a job that brings you happiness? If so you might want to consider hairdressing as a career. A new league table has said that hairdressers are the happiest workers in the UK.

So what is it about being a hairdresser that makes you happy? Jonathan Pickup who works at the Slice Salon in Newcastle and has been a hairdresser for 21 years says 'It's quite a young environment – it's quite trendy. You mix with quite a lot of young people. You get to my age and it is quite nice to be around people who are eager in their job'.

Michael Osbaldeston from examination body City & Guilds who conducted the survey said there were lots of reasons why happiness and hairdressing should go hand in hand. 'It is the relationship they have with their client which makes the job what it is... They are appreciated. They make people feel good and look good.'

Text B

Happy hairdressers...

Do you want a job that brings you happiness? If so you might want to consider hairdressing as a career. A new league table has said that hairdressers are the happiest workers in the UK...

...But before you get out your curling tongs and enrol on the nearest hairdressing course, see what other hairdressers have to say! Here are some of the comments posted on the BBC website following this story.

'I am a former hairdresser ... and gave up 8 years ago to do a degree. I am now working at a university and have regular hours, no back problems, Saturdays to do what I want with and no late nights. There is nothing I miss about hairdressing...'
Jill Handley from Norwich

'I did summer work [at a hairdressers] as a teenager and hated every minute of it. There was no way in the world I would want to be a stylist and now very content working in IT.'

Worksheet B

If you have text A, find the reasons why hairdressers are happy. Write them below:

A _____

B _____

C _____

If you have text B, find the reasons why hairdressers are unhappy. Write them below:

A _____

B _____

C _____

D _____

Worksheet C

Below are some more jobs the article talks about. First, can you match them with things they work with?

1. Clergy
2. Engines
3. Chefs
4. Houses
5. Beauticians
6. Food
7. Plumbers
8. Family problems
9. Mechanics
10. The bible
11. Social workers
12. Bathrooms
13. Architects
14. New buildings
15. Estate agents
16. Make-up

Worksheet D

Here is the conclusion to the article. Can you complete it with jobs from the list? One group is jobs people were happy in, the other jobs people hated.

Some happy alternatives

So maybe there are a few downsides to being a hairdresser, even if the job does make some happy – long hours and a lot of standing may not make everyone happy. If hairdressing isn't your thing then you'll be glad to hear that the same survey found that, as well as hairdressers,

a) _____, b) _____, c) _____, d) _____ and
e) _____ were also happy jobs to have.

However, to save yourself from unhappiness in your job avoid being
f) _____, g) _____ and h) _____! Maybe it's about being able to do something practical or creative that makes you happy?

Worksheet E

Discuss these questions in groups:

- Look at your answers to 9 again. Why do you think people liked some jobs and hated others?
- What are the top 5 and bottom 5 jobs in your country? Talk with your partners, then explain to the class.
- What are the most important things about a job? Is it money? People? The hours you work?
- What for you is the perfect job?