

The Podcast – Marta

Listen to an interview with Marta, a Spanish professional working in the UK.

- 1** Which of the following most accurately describes Marta's work?
- a) She works in the book industry.
 - b) She's a teacher.
 - c) She has to travel a lot for her job.

Listen again and answer the following questions.

- 2** Marta doesn't have a 'typical day' but she mentions three types of query she might receive from her colleagues. What are the queries Marta mentions?
- 3** Which of these themes does Marta talk about? Tick all that apply.
- her previous job
 - her ideal job
 - her job prospects in Spain
 - what her job involves
 - what she likes about her job
 - what she does in her free time
 - what she doesn't like about her job
 - how to get a job like hers'
- 4** What does Marta think would have happened to her if she had stayed in Spain?
- a) She would have become a translator.
 - b) She would have been on the dole.
 - c) She would have learned French.
- 5** Does Marta seem happy with her life both at and outside of work? Why?
- 6** Work with a partner and discuss what makes people happy with their lives in and outside of work. What do you think employers can do to make their staff happier?

Visit the website www.employersforwork-lifebalance.org.uk to find out about ways in which employers might try to make life better for their workers.

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Teacher's Notes

- 1 a) She works in the book industry.
- 2 Marta mentions being asked:
 - for information on titles (the books published by her company).
 - to agree special prices.
 - to organise print runs in India or Pakistan.
- 3 Marta talks about:
 - her previous job
 - her job prospects in Spain
 - what her job involves
 - what she likes about her job
 - what she does in her free time
- 4 b) She would have been on the dole.

To be 'on the dole' means to be out of work and getting financial support from the state. This benefit has been known by the slang term 'the dole' since World War I. This derives from the 'doling out' or 'handing out' of charitable gifts of food or money.
- 5 Marta seems quite happy with her life both in and outside of work. She enjoys her job and in particular likes being able to build relationships with people in other countries. She has time for other activities such as rowing, hiking and going to the pub.
- 6 Factors which contribute to a happy life in and outside of work could include: not having to work long hours, working in a pleasant environment, having a challenging and rewarding job, being paid enough, having time for leisure activities, having time to spend with family and friends.

Suggested ways in which employers can make their staff happier: offer flexible working times, allow employees to work at home, give generous holiday allowances, help with childcare, provide good facilities at work (for example an office canteen or gym).

Note on the transcript:

A few words in the transcript of the podcast are marked by wavy underlining. These are either grammatical errors or else a misuse of a word or phrase. With stronger students, you may consider eliciting a corrected transcript.

Suggested corrections:

more sporty	<i>sportier</i>
of Oxford	<i>specific to Oxford</i>
quite like them	<i>like them that much</i>
I've got to like them	<i>I've come to like them</i>
for a while on the dole	<i>on the dole for a while</i>
like this	<i>just like that</i>