

# Salaries

A British newspaper has just published a list of salaries in the UK. What is the difference in salary level between the higher and lower earners?

1 Complete the missing vowels in these words connected with salaries.



2 Put the following salaries in order from 1 (highest) to 10 (lowest). Check your answers by scanning the article.

doctor	CEO	financial manager	pilot	lawyer
nurse	call centre operator	dentist	taxi-driver	marketing manager

## UK salaries: a report

A British newspaper has published a list of average salaries for the UK. It is very interesting reading. Of course, people's salaries are going up, but so is the 'pay divide' – the difference between higher salaries and lower-level income. It is not a surprise to find that CEOs are at the top of the list, earning an average of over £170,000. The number of CEOs has risen dramatically recently. Doctors have risen to near the top of the pay scale, second only to company directors. Some public sector pay groups are also high in the chart.

Managers earn good salaries, with average earnings for a financial manager at nearly £80,000 and a marketing manager at over £50,000. Other high earners include pilots (over £60,000) and lawyers (over £65,000). Further down the scale come dentists (£40,000) and nurses (£25,000). A call centre

operator can expect to take home £16,000 and a taxi driver would average around £15,000.

The salary and wage figures in the list can only be a very rough guide. They are just averages. Within each group, there will be people who take home a much higher amount of money. Also, many people work long hours, which means it is difficult to compare jobs. Generally, the longer you work, the more you are paid. The figures do not include the bonuses that some sectors pay out.

Discussing salaries remains a rather taboo subject. Publishing this list means that, perhaps, you don't have to ask any embarrassing questions – or wonder what your neighbour's income really is!

3 Read the article. Why do you think it is difficult to compare salaries?

4 Complete the verb form table below.

	Infinitive	Past simple	Past participle
(a)	go up		
(b)			risen
(c)		paid	
(d)	find		

	Infinitive	Past simple	Past participle
(e)	wonder		
(f)		included	
(g)	compare		
(h)		published	

5 Discuss the following questions in small groups. Be ready to report back your findings to the class.

- (a) Are the salary levels for the jobs in the same order in your country?
- (b) Do you think the salary levels are fair? Which jobs do you think should earn more / less?
- (c) Do you think that bonuses are a good idea? Why / why not?