

Working for free

Level

Intermediate

Tasks

Ranking jobs according to the amount of unpaid overtime done

Reading an article on unpaid overtime

Identifying the odd one out from a list of business collocations

Discussing issues arising from the article

How to use the lesson

1 Find out who regularly works overtime. Is overtime usually paid, unpaid or a mixture? Tell students that a league table of jobs has been drawn up showing which groups of workers do the most unpaid overtime. Ask students to rank the jobs in the box, and then compare their answers with a partner. Ask some students to report their ideas to the class.

2 Ask students to scan paragraph 2 of the article to check their answers to exercise 1.

Answers

(1) *company directors* (2) *marketing and sales managers* (3) *office managers* (4) *accountants*
(5) *IT professionals* (6) *factory workers* (7) *call centre staff*

3 Ask students to read the whole article. Encourage them to give their reactions to the figures relating to the number of hours of unpaid overtime (paragraph 2), and the number of working days lost to stress and the cost to British companies (paragraph 4).

4 Ask students to find one word in each line that does not collocate with the word in **bold** on the right.

Answers

(a) *agent* (b) *professional* (c) *great* (d) *economical*

5 Ask students to work in groups to discuss their answers to the questions. Monitor the discussion. Ask some students to report their ideas to the class, then hold a class feedback session.

Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

http://www.tuc.org.uk/work_life/tuc-7663-f0.cfm

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nugget.asp?ID=160&Pos=2&ColRank=1&Rank=128>

<http://www.mindtools.com/smpage.html>