

WRITING EXERCISE – WORK:

What is “work”? Decide which of the following factors determine work; what other factors can you think of?

- you get paid for it
- you actually “do”, “produce” or “create” something
- you have to do what others want
- you must do something although you’d rather do something else
- ???

Which of the following situations would you call work? What would people in general say? Give good reasons!

1. The manager of a large company is invited to a dinner by the CEO of a competitive company. He can bring along his wife. They stay at the host’s place until after midnight.
2. A teacher’s official workday starts at 8:00 and ends at 13:30. However, the mother of one of his students wants to see him after his lessons to talk about her daughter’s bad marks.
3. Paris Hilton and Britney Spears go to a party in the hippest club in L.A. Of course, they get their drinks for free. Hundreds of paparazzi take pictures of the two celebrities.
4. Jennifer Lopez records a new album.
5. A burglar breaks into an art gallery. He steals paintings worth £ 150.000.
6. A mother of three stays at home all morning, washing the dishes, doing the laundry and cleaning the house. At lunchtime she picks up her children and, on the way home, buys something to eat. In the afternoon, she helps her children with their homework.
7. A father does the same.
8. A single mother, who lives on welfare, brings her 4 year old child to daycare. Then she goes shopping for new clothes in the mall. At noon, she meets with some friends in the cafeteria. In the afternoon, they go to see a movie.
9. A 12-year-old gets up at 6:00 in order to deliver the newspaper in his neighborhood before school starts. He gets paid \$ 4 an hour.
10. A 15 year old girl studies hard and at the end of the term, she gets a certificate as “Best Student of the Year”.
11. A 30 year old student takes a few classes at university each week. He lives with his mother.
12. The Secretary General of the UN meets for talks with the heads of state from two middle-eastern countries.
13. A retired woman cooks for the homeless in a homeless shelter every Friday. She doesn’t get paid for this.
14. A 35 year old jobless woman takes a course in Business English to have better chances on the job market. She pays € 300 for this course.
15. Someone takes part in a survey on various topics in his/her free time. The survey takes 35 minutes. The interviewed person gets no money for the survey.