

A2.8 Work - Handout

- 1 Almost all the speakers seem quite happy in their jobs (except for 'Sam', the mother and housewife), but probably 'Andy' is the most enthusiastic. These short texts can be read aloud by the native speaker then the learner for pronunciation practice. Remember not to correct during the reading, but wait till the end and do so in an encouraging manner. There is some vocabulary that should prove useful for the discussion that follows: *boss, nine to five, coworkers, well-paid, work from home, to work for sb. and to work as sth.* (in a role).
- 2 It may be that you and/or your partner are working in which case you can add a lot of extra questions about working conditions, current boss and hours worked etc. [Although in British culture it is considered impolite to ask details about salary, this may not be the case in your partner's culture. So, you may wish to mention this cultural reticence to avoid embarrassment.] However, it may be that you or your partner are unemployed, retired, a student, a carer or not working for other reasons. With this in mind, many of the discussion points are therefore designed to be hypothetical (e.g. 'dream/nightmare job') so there should be a lot of 'would', 'might', 'could' etc. (modal verbs).
- 3 This is a 'ranking activity': assigning numbers to the possible positive aspects of a working environment in accordance with their perceived importance for the individual. Differences between the orders assigned should lead to some fruitful discussion (and use of comparative adjectives).
- 4 This is quite an open-ended writing activity. As usual, if you can ask about your partners 'top three' and the reasons for their selection, then this should greatly facilitate the task.