

ISSUE 19

Do You Like Your Job?

A few people enjoy their jobs and, in addition, are well paid. They ought to be very happy about that. Most people, however, who are well paid do not enjoy their work; and many who find joy in their occupation are paid very little. Which do you think is more important — job satisfaction or salary?

What is the most important aspect about your job?

- (1) Salary
- (2) Job satisfaction
- (3) Job security
- (4) Fringe benefits
- (5) Working hours
- (6) Promotions
- (7) Location
- (8) Travel
- (9) My boss
- (10) My colleagues



Sample Answers

(A) Work is just that, no matter what it *entails*: performing some repetitive task in order to make money. But the one *variable* that makes or breaks any job is the people one works with. If an *esprit de corps* develops among the employees, even a boring or *arduous* task seems almost like fun. But without that spirit, simple or interesting occupations alike become tiresome.

(B) One of the best jobs I ever had (at least at the time) was also my worst-paying one. I was a lifeguard. I was nineteen and lived at home, so I didn't have any real expenses. I worked long hours most days, from mid-morning until dark, and had some unpleasant job duties to perform to keep the pool clean. And I admit that I didn't much like giving swimming lessons to little kids every morning. But the rest of the day I got paid for sitting around in the sun, *flirting* with pretty girls in *skimpy* bathing suits, and occasionally blowing my whistle. What a life!

Speak Your Mind

1. Do you enjoy your job? Why or why not?
2. Do you take pride in your work?
3. Are you satisfied with your salary?
4. What is the ideal occupation? If you don't have it, why not?
5. Are you happy with your *supervisor* and colleagues at work?
6. Is anything wrong with a wife making more money than her husband?
7. Do you believe some jobs are more *prestigious* than others? Why or why not?
8. What determines occupational prestige?

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M: What are you reading?

F: A movie magazine. I'm just checking up on how my favorite stars are doing.

M: You mean what movies they are making, so you know what to look forward to?

F: Well, I guess I'm more interested in how much they make and how they live and who they're making love to.

M: Why is any of that important?

F: It's just something to fantasize about, since I know I'll never lead that kind of life.

M: The *celebrities* in that magazine are nothing special. They just get a lot of attention, but they don't do much that's important. They don't build anything. They don't discover or invent anything. They aren't working on the problems of world hunger, peace, or justice. All they do in life is look pretty.

F: But they have a lot more prestige and money than any scientist or politician. Or, for that matter, religious leader or poet. Certainly a lot more money and prestige than a teacher or nurse. So, what's so important about being useful? Obviously, being a star is more important than anything else.

M: That's what's wrong with our world. We don't reward the ones who do the most for us. Our fantasies are preferable to our real lives. If this continues, life will *degenerate* instead of progress, because the people who can make a positive difference won't have any incentive to continue. And then our fantasy lives will become even more important as an escape from *the dreary drudgery* we find ourselves trapped in.

F: See, that's why these celebrity lifestyles attract our attention. We want better things, but we can't have them. But we can dream about them, and sometimes, if we work hard, we can make these dreams come true. But if we don't have any idea of what the "good life" is, how could we ever aspire to it?



- **celebrity** : famous person, esp. in entertainment or sports

- **degenerate** : become worse

- **dreary** : boring; dull

- **drudgery** : boring and unpleasant work you have to do