

Jobs today

Phrase bank

(get) work experience
a job for life
a low-paid/well-paid job
a part-time/full-time job
the world of work

a temporary job
a skilled/unskilled job
on-the-job training
work hard

an academic qualification
skills
get a promotion
trade
tuition fees
work your way up

Language note



In some situations the nouns **job** and **work** are interchangeable:

Do you find your job/work interesting?

But, remember that **job** is a countable noun and needs an article. **Work** is an uncountable noun and a verb.

He's looking for a job.
She's looking for work.
They work in a bank.

Remember



You can use these expressions to talk about further education.

apprenticeship
enrol on a vocational training course
do a placement

Think of a job. Which of the above is the best way to train for it?

Vocabulary: work and training

1 Cover the Phrase bank. Complete the sentences with **job** or **work**. Then check your answers.

- Mothers should only have a part-time _____.
- All sixth-formers should have the opportunity to get some _____ experience.
- No one these days has a _____ for life.
- It's better to _____ in a small family business than for a big company.

2 **Work in pairs. Do you agree or disagree with the statements in 1? Why/Why not?**

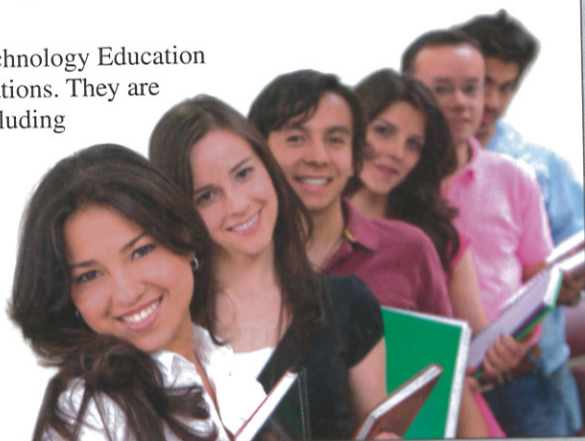
3 Read this leaflet. Do you know of any similar qualifications in your country?

Increasingly high university **tuition fees** are leading British school-leavers to consider vocational training, rather than **academic qualifications**, in their search for a good job. Those in work also take these courses to **get a promotion** and **work their way up** in their chosen profession or trade.

National Vocational Qualifications, or NVQs, come in five levels, from Level 1 focusing on basic work activities to Level 5 which is at the level of a Master's degree.

BTECs, from the Business and Technology Education Council, are work-related qualifications. They are available in a range of subjects including business, health and social care, IT and engineering.

City & Guilds Certificates offer a mix of practical **skills** and theoretical knowledge. Courses are offered at colleges across the UK in over 500 subjects from hairdressing to conservation.



4 Match the definitions to the words in bold in the text.

- degrees or certificates not related to work
- a practical job, e.g. a plumber, an electrician
- abilities
- the cost of an educational course
- start with a basic job and finish in a senior position
- apply for and get a better job

Speaking: a job for life?



Phrase bank

variety
 job security
 broaden your skills
 in-depth knowledge
 meet different people
 work in a range of
 fields
 widen your circle of
 friends

qualification promotion
 sales manager
 product education
 employee retirement
 employer

1 Look at the Phrase bank. Which expressions do you associate with ...

- a having a job for life?
- b changing your job frequently?

2 Work in pairs. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of options a and b in 1.

3 Listen to Mitchell talking to his father. Choose the correct summary of their conversation.

- a In the past people used to stay with one company for most of their working life and gradually get promoted.
- b In the past it was common for people to change companies frequently.

4 Look at the Phrase bank on page 40. Listen again and tick the words you hear.

5 Write the corresponding verb for each of the nouns in the table.

noun	verb	noun	verb
qualification		promotion	
sales		manager	
product		education	
employee/employer		retirement	

6 Work in pairs. Tell your partner about the working life of someone in your family. Use words from 5.

Pronunciation

Word stress

a Listen to the two sentences and notice the stress on the word **contract**.

My **contract** ends next month.

(*contract* is a noun: stress the first syllable)

In bright light our pupils **contract**.

(*contract* is a verb: stress the second syllable)

b Listen to the sentences containing these words and mark the stress.

imports record
 refuse convicts
 exports

Culture

In most English-speaking countries, people employed by the state are called *civil servants* who normally work in government or public-administration and *public sector employees* who work as teachers, medical staff and members of the security forces.