

Finding Out: Words in Context

Step 1: Look at the words in bold below. Can you guess what they mean? Write a short definition in English. (Don't use your dictionary yet. You will be able to check their meanings in the next section: Definitions.)

A number of **positions** have been advertised on the company's website.
She applied for a senior **position** at the company.

What do you think 'position' means? _____

Although the job is not paid, it is a chance to gain valuable **experience**.
He is sure to get the job because he has over 5 years' **experience** in similar jobs.

What do you think 'experience' means? _____

The **salary** and benefits they are offering are really quite attractive.
Her **salary** is £40 000 a year.

What do you think 'salary' means? _____

Selling houses is an extremely **lucrative** business in this town, with prices increasing year after year.
He left a very **lucrative** position in a large computer firm to open his own business.

What do you think 'lucrative' means? _____

Language courses are generally very **demanding**, and require regular study.
My job is quite **demanding** at times, but I really enjoy it, nonetheless.

What do you think 'demanding' means? _____

The best **work-life balance** is different for each of us because we all have different priorities and different lives.
This extra work is really having an impact on my **work-life balance** at the moment.

What do you think 'work-life balance' means? _____

Their pay was low and they had no **job-security** or legal rights.
Although teachers are not paid a lot, they have good **job-security**.

What do you think 'job-security' means? _____

So many people left the organisation I was working at because of these **short-term contracts**.
Many employers don't have the confidence to offer permanent employment and instead opt for **short-term contracts**.

What do you think 'short-term contracts' means? _____

Moving to a smaller company turned out to be a good **career** move.
She is hoping to start a **career** as a fashion designer after she finishes her course.

What do you think 'career' means? _____

Steven returned to the office on Monday to find he had a large **workload** due to missing work the previous week.
Students do find that their **workload** increases throughout the course.

What do you think 'workload' means? _____

Children have choices in the activities; they can **collaborate** in pairs, in small groups or with their teacher.
She agreed to collaborate with him in writing her book.

What do you think 'collaborate' means? _____

Helen was **promoted** to senior manager.
If you work hard, you should get **promoted** after about a year.

What do you think 'promoted' means? _____

The company has **laid off** 150 workers in an effort to save money.
The factory has **laid off** workers because of the drop in sales.

What do you think 'laid off' means? _____

They're doing **overtime** to get the job finished on time.
In addition to regular work hours, it is not uncommon for employees of some companies to work **overtime**.

What do you think 'overtime' means? _____

The teacher is **in charge of** the class.
The government is **in charge of** repairing roads.

What do you think 'in charge of' means? _____



Finding Out: Definitions

Step 1: Match the words with their definitions. (If you can't understand the definitions, you can use a bilingual dictionary.)

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|-----------------------|---|
| 1 position | 1 a job or series of related jobs that you do, especially a profession that you spend a lot of your working life in |
| 2 experience | 2 knowledge and skill that is gained through time spent doing a job or activity |
| 3 salary | 3 to have control over someone or something and be responsible for them |
| 4 lucrative | 4 something that makes a lot of money |
| 5 demanding | 5 a job that lasts a short period of time |
| 6 work-life balance | 6 a job in a company |
| 7 job-security | 7 the knowledge that your job is permanent as long as you want it to be |
| 8 short-term contract | 8 a fixed amount of money that you earn each month or year from your job |
| 9 career | 9 extra hours that someone works at their job |
| 10 workload | 10 the relationship between the amount of time and effort that someone gives to work and the amount that they give to other aspects of life, such as their family |
| 11 collaborate | 11 to have your employment ended, because there is not enough work |
| 12 be promoted | 12 needing a lot of time, ability, and energy |
| 13 be laid off | 13 to be moved to a job at a higher level |
| 14 overtime | 14 involving people or groups working together to produce something |
| 15 in charge of | 15 the amount of work that a person or organization has to do |
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Definitions taken from www.macmillandictionary.com