

FUMC ESL 4-16-2015 Advanced Lesson

More Talk About Work

DISCUSSION: Students take turns reading the paragraphs, answering the question, then leading the class discussion about this topic.

1. My mother had an old saying. It went like this. "Men must work from sun to sun, but women's work is never done." She would usually say this while doing dishes after the evening meal. My dad would retire to the couch to read and we kids would go to our rooms to finish up homework and my mother would still be on her feet in the kitchen. She was a homemaker and did all the cooking, cleaning and washing for our family of four. Now that women work outside the home, I think men share chores more. Do you find this to be true. Is the housework divided up equally in your home? Does your husband have some chores that he always does? Do you have any sayings in your country about work?
2. At the end of a dinner party, you go in the kitchen and see a huge mess. The stove has to be cleaned and the dishes washed. You could say, "I have my work cut out for me." Basically this means you have lots of work in front of you. Do you like to entertain at home? Do you not entertain because you dread all the work? When you ask people to dinner, do they usually help with the cooking or cleaning up? If everyone works together in the kitchen, you can "make short work of it". This means get it done quickly and efficiently. Do you like cook together with friends or family. When your mom comes to visit, does she cook and clean or do you wait on her?
3. If something "works both ways", it has an equal effect on each side. EX: The workers understand that the company is in financial difficulties and are willing to take a cut in pay. But they feel it should work both ways. Management should be willing to take lower salaries as well. Do you have powerful labor unions in your country? Do you think this is a good thing. What protections do workers have in your country? Are there more workers than jobs in your country?
4. Some countries do not have a large work force. Their population is aging and there are not enough young workers to fill the jobs. Because of this problem, these countries encourage immigration of blue collar workers to fill the many service and manual labor jobs. Is this the situation in your country? Or do you have the opposite situation, more people than jobs?
5. A person or company who "carves out a niche" concentrates on a particular segment of the market, to which they supply a product or service, and develop their expertise in that area. In today's competitive market it is better to carve out a niche and try to become the best in that area. Do you agree this is a smart business plan? Can you give an example of a company that has carved out a niche? Have you got any ideas about services or products that you could set up a business to provide?

Decide whether “do” or “make” should go in the blank in these expressions. After you decide, check with the group and your teacher.

_____ the ironing	_____ a buck	_____ your homework	_____ some coffee
_____ your hair	_____ your nails	_____ a fortune	_____ a fuss
_____ a difference	_____ amends	_____ your bed	_____ your best
_____ no harm	_____ your eyes water	_____ a speech	_____ arrangements
_____ a suggestion	_____ me a favor	_____ a call	_____ a fool of myself
_____ a point	_____ a profit	_____ an appearance	_____ trouble
_____ a double take	_____ your part	_____ me good	_____ ends meet