

# English Vocabulary: 'work'

## 1) 'work'

**work:** employment  
place  
creation  
action  
operate  
function

A: What is your **work**? B: I'm an engineer.  
I have always **worked** with software.  
A: Where are you? B: I'm **at work**.  
Mozart's Fifth Symphony is an amazing **work**!  
I'm **working** today.  
John's **working** the lathe at the moment.  
My TV is not **working** today.

**works:** repairs  
factory

There are **roadworks** on the highway today.  
There are no trains today due to **works** on the line.  
I work at the **gasworks**.  
Let's visit the **steelworks** tomorrow.

## 2) Related vocabulary

- woodwork carpentry, or something made from wood
- workable viable
- workaholic somebody who is addicted to work
- workbench/worktop a place (such as a table) to work
- working week Monday to Friday
- workdays Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
- working hours the hours that you work, typically 9am to 5pm
- worker somebody who works
- workforce all of the people who work in a company
- working capital cash available for purchases
- working class the people in society who need to work for a living
- working group a small group of people responsible for a project
- working knowledge basic knowledge about a topic
- working model a functioning prototype
- in working order not broken (opposite: out of order / out of action / broken)
- work-in-progress a project that is not yet finished
- workload the volume of work that you need to do
- workmanship quality of something handmade
- workmate work colleague
- work of art something finely made and appreciated by many
- work permit a document that allows you to work in a specific place
- workplace the place where you work
- workshop 1) the area where you build or repair things  
2) a group of people to study or work together
- workstation the area where you sit when you are working

### 3) 'work' vs 'job'

The words 'work' and 'job' both translate to '*trabalho*' in Portuguese. However, they are used in different situations.

**Work.** This word can be a noun (uncountable) or a verb.

Noun:

- I have a lot of **work** to do.
- I always go to **work** at 8am.
- Much of my **work** involves talking with people.

Verb:

- I **work** a lot on Mondays.
- He sometimes **works** at home.
- She is **working** in London today.

**Job.** This word is only a noun (countable). It can mean '*trabalho*', '*emprego*' or '*tarefa*'.

- I have many **jobs** to do today. (*tarefas*)
- I love my **job**. (*emprego*)
- It is a very difficult **job**. (*trabalho/emprego/tarefa*)
- In your opinion, which **jobs** need patience? (*empregos/tarefas*)

Note: It's a difficult **job**. (*countable*) / It's difficult **work**. (*uncountable*)

I have **many jobs** to do. (*countable*) / I have **much work** to do. (*uncountable*)

Sometimes we can use both words in one sentence. For example:

- I am **working** hard on a big **job**. (*Estou trabalhando duro em um grande tarefa.*)
- My **job** is hard **work**! (*Meu trabalho/emprego é trabalhoso/árido.*)

**Exercise 1.** Complete the sentences below with 'work' (conjugating if necessary) or 'job'.

Sometimes both are possible.

1. I love going to \_\_\_\_\_ in the city.
2. I love my \_\_\_\_\_ in the city.
3. He only \_\_\_\_\_ on Mondays and Fridays, because he is semi-retired.
4. What a fantastic \_\_\_\_\_ you did today. Well done!
5. My boss always asks me to take some \_\_\_\_\_ home with me.
6. A: Are you \_\_\_\_\_ today?  
B: No, I'm not. It's my day off.

#### 4) Phrasal Verbs with 'work'

<u>Phrasal Verb</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Example</u>
work at	try to improve	I must <b>work at</b> my English grammar.
work off	eliminate	I need to <b>work off</b> 5kg.
work on	dedicate yourself	I should <b>work on</b> my studies more.
work up	irritate	Please don't <b>work him up</b> – he is very tired today.
	generate	I'm <b>working up</b> the courage to ask her to marry me.
work out	solve	I hope you can <b>work out</b> your problems.
	understand	I can't <b>work out</b> what is happening with my car.
	do exercise	I <b>work out</b> three times a week at the gym.
	be successful	I am glad your new business <b>is working out</b> .
	calculate	I can't <b>work out</b> the answer to this maths problem.
	total	Your bill <b>works out</b> at \$23.

#### 5) Expressions with 'work'

<u>Expression</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Example</u>
in work	employed	Are you <b>in work</b> at the moment?
out of work	unemployed	I'm <b>out of work</b> at the moment.
have your work cut out	something difficult	You <b>have your work cut out</b> with your house renovation!
be a piece of work	somebody terrible	My neighbor really <b>is a piece of work!</b> He is always so rude.
work your way to	advance/go up	John is <b>working his way to</b> the top of the company.
work against someone	have a bad effect	The hot climate is <b>working against me!</b>
work loose	become loose	The screws on my wheelbarrow are <b>working loose</b> . I must tighten them.
the works	everything	What do you want in your hot dog? <b>The works!</b>

**Exercise 2.** Complete the sentences using a phrasal verb or expression (conjugate if necessary):

- I'm really overweight. I should \_\_\_\_\_ at least 10kg.
- A: I don't know how I will cope without a job.  
B: I'm sure things will \_\_\_\_\_ in the end.
- My cousin is \_\_\_\_\_! He tricked me out of \$100!
- My key doesn't open the lock. I can't \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_.
- It's a long, complicated calculation. Can you please \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ for me?
- My presentation isn't perfect yet. I need to \_\_\_\_\_ it some more.
- A: How often do you \_\_\_\_\_?  
B: Three times a week. I love to go to the gym.
- John took 10 days to \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_ to the top of the mountain.