

Jobs and Occupations

Vocabulary Lesson, Examples & Practice Questions

Jobs and Occupations in English

Do you know the names of different jobs in English? Talking about **jobs and occupations** is one of the most important things you can do as a beginner. When you meet someone new, one of the first questions in English is often: "What do you do?" or "What is your job?"

Read this short situation and notice the job words:

Maria is at a party. She meets Tom. Tom says: "Hello! I'm Tom. I'm a **doctor**." Maria says: "Nice to meet you! I'm Maria. I'm a **teacher**." Then they meet Sam. Sam says: "Hi! I'm a **chef**. I cook food in a restaurant!" Everyone is happy to share their jobs.

In this lesson, you will learn common **jobs and occupations** in English, how to use them in sentences, and how to talk about what people do at work.

Key Vocabulary & Meaning Breakdown

1. Jobs in Health and Education

These are people who help others learn or stay healthy. You see these people in hospitals, clinics, and schools.

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech & Meaning	Example Sentence	Notes
doctor	<i>noun</i> — a person who helps sick people and gives medical care	The doctor gives medicine to the patient.	Works in a hospital or clinic
nurse	<i>noun</i> — a person who cares for sick or injured people in a hospital	The nurse checks the patient every hour.	Works with doctors in a hospital
dentist	<i>noun</i> — a person who looks after people's teeth	I go to the dentist twice a year.	Works in a dental clinic
teacher	<i>noun</i> — a person who helps students learn at school	My teacher explains new words every day.	Works in a school or college
student	<i>noun</i> — a person who goes to school or university to learn	She is a student at the local school.	Not a job, but a very common occupation word

2. Jobs in Food, Service, and Shops

These people work in restaurants, shops, and places where they help customers every day.

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech & Meaning	Example Sentence	Notes
chef	<i>noun</i> — a professional cook who works in a restaurant or hotel	The chef cooks delicious food in the restaurant.	A chef is a trained, professional cook
waiter / waitress	<i>noun</i> — a person who brings food and drinks to customers in a restaurant	The waiter brings the menu to the table.	<i>Waiter</i> = male, <i>waitress</i> = female (though <i>waiter</i> is now often used for all)
shop assistant	<i>noun</i> — a person who helps customers in a shop	The shop assistant helps me find my size.	Works in a supermarket, clothes shop, etc.
baker	<i>noun</i> — a person who makes and sells bread, cakes, and pastries	The baker makes fresh bread every morning.	Works in a bakery
cashier	<i>noun</i> — a person who takes money from customers in a shop or bank	The cashier gives me my change.	You can find a cashier at a supermarket checkout

3. Jobs in Safety, Transport, and Public Life

These are important people in our communities. They keep us safe, help us travel, and build things around us.

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech & Meaning	Example Sentence	Notes
police officer	<i>noun</i> — a person whose job is to keep people safe and enforce the law	The police officer helps lost children.	Works for the police force
firefighter	<i>noun</i> — a person who puts out fires and saves people in danger	The firefighter saves people from the burning building.	Old word: <i>fireman</i> — but <i>firefighter</i> is now more common
driver	<i>noun</i> — a person who drives a vehicle such as a car, bus, or lorry	The bus driver takes people to the city centre.	Can be a taxi driver, bus driver, lorry driver
builder	<i>noun</i> — a person who constructs or repairs buildings and houses	The builder is making a new house on our street.	Works outside on construction sites
farmer	<i>noun</i> — a person who grows food or keeps animals on a farm	The farmer has many cows and sheep.	Works on a farm in the countryside

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech & Meaning	Example Sentence	Notes
pilot	<i>noun</i> — a person who flies an aeroplane	The pilot flies the plane to London.	Works for an airline

Collocations & Useful Expressions

At A1 level, it is important to learn **short phrases and questions** that go with job vocabulary. Here are some very useful ones:

be + a/an + job

She is a nurse. He is a doctor. I am a student.

Use **a** before a consonant sound and **an** before a vowel sound.

work + as + a/an + job

He works as a chef in a hotel.

She works as a teacher at a primary school.

work + in + a place

A doctor works in a hospital.

A baker works in a bakery.

A teacher works in a school.

What do you do?

This is a very common question. It means: "What is your job?"

Answer: "I am a teacher." or "I work as a nurse."

What does he/she do?

What does she do? — She is a police officer.

What does he do? — He is a builder.

Where do you work?

I work in a hospital. / I work in a school. / I work on a farm.

Important Differences & Confusing Words

Job vs Work vs Career

These three words all relate to **jobs and occupations**, but they are used differently.

Job — a specific position or occupation (a countable noun)

She has a new job at the hospital.

I want a job as a teacher.

Work — activities you do to earn money, or the place where you do them (an uncountable noun — NO "a" or "s")

I go to work every day at 8 o'clock.

He is at work right now.

✗ Do not say: "I go to a work."

Career — the whole of your working life, or a long-term professional path

She has a long career as a nurse.

(This word is more common at A2/B1 level, but good to know.)

Cook vs Chef

Cook — a general word for a person who prepares food (at home or at work)

My mum is a great cook.

Chef — a professional, trained cook who works in a restaurant or hotel

The chef at the restaurant studied cooking for five years.

All **chefs** are **cooks**, but not all **cooks** are **chefs**!

Waiter vs Server

Waiter / Waitress — the traditional British English words for a person who serves food in a restaurant

The waiter brings our food to the table.

Server — more common in American English, used for both male and female

The server takes our order.

In British English, **waiter** and **waitress** are the most common words.

Common Mistakes

✗ *She is teacher.*

✓ **She is a teacher.** — Always use *a* or *an* before a job: *I am a doctor. He is an engineer.*

✗ *He is an police officer.*

✓ **He is a police officer.** — Use *an* before vowel sounds (a, e, i, o, u), not before consonant sounds. "Police" starts with a /p/ sound.

✗ *What is your work?*

✓ **What do you do?** or **What is your job?** — We do not say "What is your work?" in natural English.

✗ *She works in hospital.*

✓ **She works in a hospital.** — Remember to use the article *a* or *an* before the place of work.

✗ *I am student.*

✓ **I am a student.** — Do not forget the article *a* before your occupation.

✗ *My father is a farmer. He works at a farm.*

✓ **My father is a farmer. He works on a farm.** — We say *work on a farm*, not *at a farm*.

Jobs and Occupations: Quick Summary & Review

Here is a quick summary of what you have learned about **jobs and occupations** in English:

- Use **a** or **an** before every job: *a teacher, a doctor, an engineer.*

- To say what your job is, use: **I am a ____.** or **I work as a ____.**
- To say where you work, use: **I work in a ____.** or **I work on a ____.** (e.g. on a farm)
- To ask about someone's job, say: **"What do you do?"**
- Remember: **job** needs an article (*a job*), but **work** does not (*I go to work*).
- A **chef** is a professional cook who works in a restaurant. A **cook** can be anyone who prepares food.
- Common jobs at A1 level: **doctor, nurse, teacher, chef, waiter, police officer, firefighter, driver, farmer, builder, pilot, dentist, baker, cashier, shop assistant.**

Now practise **jobs and occupations** vocabulary in the exercises below.

Jobs and Occupations – Practice Test

A1 | Practice Exercises: Multiple Choice, Fill-in-the-Gap, Fill-in-the-Blank, Matrix Matching & Sorting

Part 1: Multiple Choice (Questions 1–10)

1 A person who helps sick people and works in a hospital is called a ____.

- A** farmer
- B** doctor
- C** baker
- D** driver

2 Which word describes a person who cooks food in a restaurant?

- A** teacher
- B** pilot
- C** chef
- D** nurse

3 A person who teaches students in a school is called a ____.

- A** waiter
- B** teacher
- C** police officer
- D** farmer

4 Which job does a person do when they fly an airplane?

- A** nurse
- B** mechanic
- C** pilot
- D** banker

5 A person who grows vegetables and keeps animals on a farm is a ____.

- A** farmer
- B** waiter
- C** dentist
- D** actor

6 Which person helps you when you go to a restaurant and brings your food?

- A** baker
- B** driver
- C** waiter
- D** mechanic

7 A person who fixes cars and engines is called a ____.

- A** mechanic
- B** librarian
- C** judge
- D** chef

8 Which word means a person who makes bread and cakes?

- A** actor
- B** baker
- C** nurse
- D** pilot

9 A person who looks after sick people in a hospital, but is not a doctor, is a ____.

- A** teacher
- B** pilot
- C** farmer
- D** nurse

10 A person who paints pictures and makes art is called an ____.

- A** engineer
- B** artist
- C** dentist
- D** accountant

Part 2: Fill in the Gap (Questions 11–20)

11 The ____ works in a hospital and helps sick people.

- A** doctor
- B** pilot
- C** baker

12 The ____ teaches students in a classroom every day.

- A** teacher
- B** chef
- C** driver

13 The ____ makes bread and cakes in a bakery.

- A** baker
- B** nurse
- C** farmer

14 The ____ flies an airplane to different countries.

- A** pilot
- B** mechanic
- C** waiter

15 The ____ grows vegetables and takes care of animals on a farm.

- A** farmer
- B** singer
- C** dentist

16 The ____ cooks delicious food in a restaurant.

- A** chef
- B** postman
- C** soldier

17 The ____ delivers letters and packages to people's homes.

- A** postman
- B** painter
- C** vet

18 The ____ takes care of animals when they are sick.

- A** vet
- B** librarian
- C** actor

19 The ____ helps people who are in danger and puts out fires.

- A** firefighter
- B** tailor
- C** accountant

20 The ____ checks your teeth and keeps them clean and healthy.

- A** dentist
- B** engineer
- C** guard

Part 3: Fill in the Blank (Questions 21–30)

21 A _____ works in a hospital and helps sick people feel better.

22 The _____ writes on the board and helps students learn new things at school.

23 A _____ cooks delicious food in a restaurant kitchen.

24 The _____ wears a uniform and keeps people safe in the city.

25 A _____ takes care of patients in the hospital and gives them their medicine.

26 The _____ grows vegetables and keeps animals on his land in the countryside.

27 A _____ sits in the front of the bus and takes passengers to different places.

28 The _____ wears special clothes and uses water to stop dangerous fires.

29 A _____ brings food and drinks to customers at tables in a restaurant.

30 The _____ wakes up very early in the morning to make fresh bread and cakes.

Part 4: Matrix / Match Values (Questions 31–40)

31 Match each job word on the left with its correct meaning on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** A person who helps students learn in a school **B** A person who flies an airplane
C A person who treats sick people **D** A person who cooks food in a restaurant

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Teacher	[]
Doctor	[]
Chef	[]
Pilot	[]

32 Match each job on the left with the place where that person works on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** Library **B** Farm
C Hospital

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Nurse	[]
Farmer	[]
Librarian	[]

33 Match each job word on the left with what that person uses to do their job on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** Drill and mirror **B** Paintbrush and colors
C Uniform and badge **D** Tools and machines

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Artist	[]
Mechanic	[]
Police officer	[]
Dentist	[]

34 Match each job on the left with the correct action verb that describes what they do on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

A Serves food in a restaurant

B Puts out fires

C Operates a vehicle

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Firefighter	[]
Waiter	[]
Driver	[]

35 Match each job word on the left with its correct definition on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

A A doctor who looks after animals

B A person who fixes water pipes

C A person who makes bread and cakes

D A person who delivers letters and packages

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Vet	[]
Plumber	[]
Postman	[]
Baker	[]

36 Match each sentence on the left with the correct job word on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

A Hairdresser

B Builder

C Shop assistant

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
This person builds houses and walls.	[]
This person cuts and styles hair.	[]
This person sells things in a shop.	[]

37 Match each job on the left with the correct collocation (words that go together) on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

A Looks after patients

B Teaches a class

C Grows vegetables

D Prepares a meal

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Teacher	[]
Nurse	[]
Chef	[]
Farmer	[]

38 Match each job word on the left with the correct synonym or similar word on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

A Police officer

B Doctor

C Teacher

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Physician	[]
Policeman	[]
Instructor	[]

39 Match each job on the left with the correct place of work on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

A Courtroom

B Supermarket

C Kitchen

D Laboratory

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Judge	[]
Chef	[]
Cashier	[]
Scientist	[]

40 Match each sentence starter on the left with the correct ending on the right to describe a job.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

A ...get better when they are sick.

B ...fly passengers to different places.

C ...save people from fires.

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
A firefighter works to...	[]
A pilot's job is to...	[]
A doctor helps people to...	[]

Part 5: Sort the Values (Questions 41–50)

41 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

doctor.

She

is

a

42 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

teacher.

father

My

is

a

43 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

hospital.

works

He

in

a

44 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

people.

nurse

helps

sick

The

45 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

officer?

police

Are

you

a

46 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

cooks

every

chef

food

day.

The

47 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

firefighter.

want

to

be

I

a

48 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

lawyer.

very

good

She

is

a

49 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

mother

What

does

your

do?

50 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

planes.

pilot

flies

The

big

Answer Key & Explanations

Jobs and Occupations | A1

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. **B** Correct Answer: doctor ✓ Explanation: A doctor is a person who helps people who are sick or hurt. The doctor works at the hospital every day.
2. **C** Correct Answer: chef ✓ Explanation: A chef is a person who cooks food, usually in a restaurant or hotel. The chef made a delicious soup.
3. **B** Correct Answer: teacher ✓ Explanation: A teacher is a person who helps students learn in a school or classroom. My teacher reads stories to us every morning.
4. **C** Correct Answer: pilot ✓ Explanation: A pilot is a person who flies an airplane. The pilot said hello to the passengers before the flight.
5. **A** Correct Answer: farmer ✓ Explanation: A farmer is a person who works on a farm, growing food or keeping animals. The farmer has ten cows on his farm.
6. **C** Correct Answer: waiter ✓ Explanation: A waiter is a person who brings food and drinks to customers in a restaurant. The waiter asked, 'What would you like to eat?'
7. **A** Correct Answer: mechanic ✓ Explanation: A mechanic is a person who repairs cars and machines. The mechanic fixed my car in one hour.
8. **B** Correct Answer: baker ✓ Explanation: A baker is a person who makes bread, cakes, and other baked goods. The baker gets up very early to make fresh bread.
9. **D** Correct Answer: nurse ✓ Explanation: A nurse is a person who takes care of sick people in a hospital or clinic. The nurse gave me medicine when I was in the hospital.
10. **B** Correct Answer: artist ✓ Explanation: An artist is a person who creates paintings, drawings, or other works of art. The artist painted a beautiful picture of the sea.

Part 2: Fill in the Gap

11. **A** Correct Answer: doctor ✓ Explanation: A doctor is a person who works in a hospital and takes care of sick people. The doctor gave me medicine.
12. **A** Correct Answer: teacher ✓ Explanation: A teacher works in a school and helps students learn. My teacher is very kind.
13. **A** Correct Answer: baker ✓ Explanation: A baker is a person who makes bread and cakes. The baker made fresh bread this morning.

14. **A** Correct Answer: pilot ✓ Explanation: A pilot is the person who flies an airplane. The pilot landed the plane safely.
15. **A** Correct Answer: farmer ✓ Explanation: A farmer works on a farm, growing food and looking after animals. The farmer wakes up very early every day.
16. **A** Correct Answer: chef ✓ Explanation: A chef is a professional cook who prepares food in a restaurant. The chef made a wonderful pasta dish.
17. **A** Correct Answer: postman ✓ Explanation: A postman brings letters and packages to your house. The postman left a letter at the door.
18. **A** Correct Answer: vet ✓ Explanation: A vet is a doctor for animals. I took my cat to the vet yesterday.
19. **A** Correct Answer: firefighter ✓ Explanation: A firefighter is a person whose job is to stop fires and keep people safe. The firefighter saved the cat from the burning building.
20. **A** Correct Answer: dentist ✓ Explanation: A dentist is a doctor who works with teeth. I go to the dentist twice a year.

Part 3: Fill in the Blank

21. **doctor** Correct Answer: doctor ✓ Explanation: A doctor is a person who treats sick people and works in a hospital or clinic. The doctor gave me medicine.
22. **teacher** Correct Answer: teacher ✓ Explanation: A teacher is a person who works at a school and helps students learn. My teacher is very kind.
23. **chef** Correct Answer: chef ✓ Explanation: A chef is a person who prepares and cooks food professionally. The chef made a beautiful cake.
24. **police|policeman|policewoman|police officer** Correct Answer: police / police officer ✓ Explanation: A police officer is a person who protects people and enforces the law. The police officer helped the lost child.
25. **nurse** Correct Answer: nurse ✓ Explanation: A nurse works in a hospital and cares for patients by giving medicine and checking their health. The nurse checked my temperature.
26. **farmer** Correct Answer: farmer ✓ Explanation: A farmer is a person who grows food and raises animals on a farm. The farmer has cows and chickens.
27. **driver** Correct Answer: driver ✓ Explanation: A driver is a person who operates a vehicle such as a bus or taxi. The bus driver stops at every station.
28. **firefighter** Correct Answer: firefighter ✓ Explanation: A firefighter is a person whose job is to put out fires and keep people safe. The firefighter climbed the ladder.

29. **waiter** Correct Answer: waiter ✓ Explanation: A waiter is a person who serves food and drinks to people in a restaurant. The waiter brought us the menu.

30. **baker** Correct Answer: baker ✓ Explanation: A baker is a person who makes bread, cakes, and pastries in a bakery. The baker sells warm bread every morning.

Part 4: Matrix / Match Values

31. **Teacher: A • Doctor: C • Chef: D • Pilot: B** Correct Matches: • Teacher → A person who helps students learn in a school • Doctor → A person who treats sick people • Chef → A person who cooks food in a restaurant • Pilot → A person who flies an airplane ✓ Explanation: A teacher works in a school, a doctor works in a hospital or clinic, a chef works in a kitchen or restaurant, and a pilot works in a cockpit of an airplane.

32. **Nurse: C • Farmer: B • Librarian: A** Correct Matches: • Nurse → Hospital • Farmer → Farm • Librarian → Library ✓ Explanation: A nurse cares for patients in a hospital, a farmer grows food on a farm, and a librarian helps people find books in a library.

33. **Artist: B • Mechanic: D • Police officer: C • Dentist: A** Correct Matches: • Artist → Paintbrush and colors • Mechanic → Tools and machines • Police officer → Uniform and badge • Dentist → Drill and mirror ✓ Explanation: An artist uses a paintbrush to create pictures, a mechanic uses tools to fix cars, a police officer wears a uniform and badge, and a dentist uses a drill to care for teeth.

34. **Firefighter: B • Waiter: A • Driver: C** Correct Matches: • Firefighter → Puts out fires • Waiter → Serves food in a restaurant • Driver → Operates a vehicle ✓ Explanation: A firefighter puts out fires and keeps people safe, a waiter serves food to customers in a restaurant, and a driver operates a car, bus, or truck.

35. **Vet: A • Plumber: B • Postman: D • Baker: C** Correct Matches: • Vet → A doctor who looks after animals • Plumber → A person who fixes water pipes • Postman → A person who delivers letters and packages • Baker → A person who makes bread and cakes ✓ Explanation: A vet is a short word for veterinarian and works with animals, a plumber fixes pipes and water systems, a postman brings mail to your home, and a baker makes bread and pastries.

36. This person builds houses and walls.: B • This person cuts and styles hair.: A • This person sells things in a shop.: C

Correct Matches: • This person builds houses and walls. → Builder • This person cuts and styles hair. → Hairdresser • This person sells things in a shop. → Shop assistant 

Explanation: A builder uses bricks and cement to construct buildings, a hairdresser works in a hair salon, and a shop assistant helps customers buy things in a store.

37. Teacher: B • Nurse: A • Chef: D • Farmer: C

Correct Matches: • Teacher → Teaches a class • Nurse → Looks after patients • Chef → Prepares a meal • Farmer → Grows vegetables  Explanation: Common collocations help us describe jobs: a teacher teaches a class, a nurse looks after patients, a chef prepares a meal, and a farmer grows vegetables on their land.

38. Physician: B • Policeman: A • Instructor: C

Correct Matches: • Physician → Doctor • Policeman → Police officer • Instructor → Teacher  Explanation: Physician is a formal word for doctor, policeman and police officer both describe someone who enforces the law, and instructor is another word for a teacher or trainer.

39. Judge: A • Chef: C • Cashier: B • Scientist: D

Correct Matches: • Judge → Courtroom • Chef → Kitchen • Cashier → Supermarket • Scientist → Laboratory ✓

Explanation: A judge makes decisions in a courtroom, a chef cooks in a kitchen, a cashier takes payments at a supermarket, and a scientist does experiments in a laboratory.

40. A firefighter works to...: C • A pilot's job is to...: B • A doctor helps people to...: A

Correct Matches: • A firefighter works to... → ...save people from fires. • A pilot's job is to... → ...fly passengers to different places. • A doctor helps people to... → ...get better when they are sick. ✓

Explanation: Each sentence describes the main purpose of a job: a firefighter saves people from fires, a pilot flies passengers safely to their destination, and a doctor helps people recover from illness.

Part 5: Sort the Values

41. Correct Answer: She is a doctor. ✓ Explanation: In simple sentences with the verb to be, the subject comes first, followed by the verb is, then the article a, and finally the noun (job/occupation). For example: She is a doctor.

42. Correct Answer: My father is a teacher. ✓ Explanation: The possessive adjective My comes before the noun father. Then comes the verb is, the article a, and the occupation teacher. Word order: Subject → Verb → Article → Noun.

43. Correct Answer: He works in a hospital. ✓ Explanation: The subject He comes first, then the verb works, followed by the prepositional phrase in a hospital. This structure describes where someone works.

44. Correct Answer: The nurse helps sick people. ✓ Explanation: The definite article The comes before the occupation nurse. The verb helps follows the subject, and the adjective sick comes before the noun people. Word order: Article → Subject → Verb → Adjective → Noun.

45. Correct Answer: Are you a police officer? ✓ Explanation: In yes/no questions with the verb to be, the verb Are comes before the subject you. Then comes the article a and the compound noun police officer. Questions end with a question mark.

- 46.** Correct Answer: The chef cooks food every day. ✅ Explanation: The subject The chef comes first, followed by the verb cooks and the object food. The frequency expression every day comes at the end of the sentence.
- 47.** Correct Answer: I want to be a firefighter. ✅ Explanation: The subject I comes first, then the verb want, followed by the infinitive to be. The article a comes before the occupation firefighter. The structure want + to + verb expresses a desire.
- 48.** Correct Answer: She is a very good lawyer. ✅ Explanation: After the verb is and the article a, the adverb very comes before the adjective good, which comes before the noun lawyer. The order of modifiers is: Adverb → Adjective → Noun.
- 49.** Correct Answer: What does your mother do? ✅ Explanation: This is a common question to ask about someone's job. The question word What comes first, then the auxiliary verb does, followed by the subject your mother, and the main verb do at the end.
- 50.** Correct Answer: The pilot flies big planes. ✅ Explanation: The definite article The comes before the subject pilot. The verb flies follows in the third person singular form. The adjective big comes before the noun planes. Word order: Article → Subject → Verb → Adjective → Noun.

Score Guide

45–50 Correct	Excellent! You have mastered this topic.
38–44 Correct	Very good! Review the rules you missed.
30–37 Correct	Good start. Re-read the lesson and examples.
0–29 Correct	Study the lesson again before retaking the test.