

21 Vocabulary

21.1 WORKING

It is difficult to work a **nine-to-five** job when you have young children.

nine-to-five

[a job with regular hours]



Our employees are qualified and also have **hands-on experience**.

hands-on experience

[the knowledge and skill gained through doing something yourself]



My career really **took off** after I got that first big deal.

take off

[suddenly begin to have more success]



I worked my way up from the **bottom of the career ladder**.

bottom of the career ladder

[a position with the lowest level of responsibility or compensation]



He was **fired** for stealing goods from the warehouse.

be fired

[be forced to leave your job for doing something wrong]



We've built a positive **working environment** for our staff.

working environment

[the conditions in which you work]



Have you ever **held a position** in management?

hold a position

[have a job]



Her chosen **career path** meant she worked abroad a lot.

career path

[progression within a profession, in a job or through a series of jobs]



I'm going to college so I don't have to get a **dead-end job**.

dead-end job

[a position without many prospects]



Many people were **laid off** from the factory.

laid off / made redundant (UK)

[made to leave a job because there is not enough work available]



I'm **stepping down** to let another person do the job.

step down

[stop doing a job voluntarily]



We've **set our sights** on being number one in our industry.

set your sights on something

[aim to achieve a particular goal]



We **took on** three new members of staff this year.

take somebody on / take on somebody

[employ somebody]



She must **have her hands full** with those four children.

have your hands full

[be busy with a task or many tasks]



He always **goes the extra mile** to ensure deliveries are on time.

go the extra mile

[do more than you are required to do]



We had to **tackle this problem head-on** before it got worse.

tackle something head-on

[deal with something directly]



You need to work hard to **get ahead** in this industry.

get ahead

[make more progress than others]



I'm sorry I didn't answer your email. I was **snowed under**.

be snowed under

[have too much work to do]



I can't come out because I'm **up to my eyes** with work.

be up to your eyes / ears

[be so busy that you can't take on anything else]



The deal involved **give and take** on both sides.

give and take

[compromise]

