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A Reading and Discussion Textbook

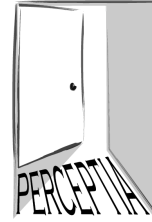


by Steve Redford

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Chapter 8: Part-time Jobs

Starting out

Look at the pictures and answer the questions with a partner.



1. Which seems like the best place to have a part-time job?
2. What is the best way to find a part-time job?

Now enjoy reading the essay on the following page >>

● Vocabulary and expressions

sophomore (n.) 4年制高校・4年制大学の2年生

junior (n.) 高校・4年制大学の3年生

luggage (n.) 旅行かばん

tip (n., v.) チップ、チップをあげる

get going (v.) そろそろ (何を) しないと

fiddle with (v.) ~をいじる

slit (n.) スリット、すき間、細長い孔

Look... あら

rack (n.) ラック、棚

crew (n.) 同じ仕事に従事する者

mason (n.) ~をれんがで建てる者

lot (n.) 用地

scaffolding (n.) 足場

make up for lost time 無駄にした時間を取り戻す

bleary (adj.) (目が) かすんだ、ぼんやりした

complement (v.) 良く合わせる

*Part-time Jobs**by Freddy Freeman*

1 A few weeks ago, I was talking with a
Japanese friend of mine. I asked her what
sort of part-time jobs she had when she
was in high school, but she told me that
5 she hadn't had any job. She told me it was
against her high school's rules for students
to have part-time jobs.

"Not even during summer vacation?"

10 "What vacation?" she replied. "Except
for two weeks, we were going to school
during vacation—for extra classes, getting
ready for entrance exams."

I couldn't believe it and told her about
my work experience during high school.

15 Between my sophomore and junior
years, I worked all summer at a hotel.
My main job was to cut grass and wash
windows, but sometimes I carried people's
luggage into their rooms for them, and then
20 I'd usually get a tip. One time, I was in the
manager's office just as a guest was calling
to complain that the TV in her room was
not working.

25 "Freddy," he said to me, "run up to room
206 and fix the TV."

"Do what?" I said.

"You heard me."

30 "But I don't know anything about
repairing TVs."

"Me, neither. Now get going."

35 So I went to room 206, and feeling like
an absolute fool, I told the woman I was
there to fix the TV. I pulled the TV away
from the wall. I fiddled with some knobs at
the back and shone a flashlight into some
slits in the plastic casing.

"Well," I lied, "it looks like a wire's
burned out. We'll have to order one."

40 "You can order all the wires you want,"
she said, "but I want a TV that works. Look,
there are lots of empty rooms. Can't you just
bring one in from another room?"

45 Hey, that was a good idea. I wondered
why the manager hadn't thought of it. I
walked back into the office and quietly
took a room key from the rack on the wall.
I got a TV from another room and carried

it to the woman's room. I plugged it in and
turned it on."

50 "I don't know how much they pay you
here," she said, "but it's not enough"—and
she handed me a tip. A ten-dollar tip!

The summer between my junior and
senior years in high school, I worked
55 with a crew of brick masons. My job was
to shovel wet cement into a heavy-duty
wheelbarrow—or to load the wheelbarrow
up with a big pile of bricks—and to push
the wheelbarrow all around the muddy
60 lot of the house we were working on.
Sometimes I'd have to throw the bricks,
one by one, up to where the masons were
working. Have you ever tried to push a
hundred and fifty pounds of brick through
65 the mud in a wheelbarrow? Have you ever
tried to throw five hundred bricks, one-by-
one, up to a guy standing on scaffolding
high above you?

70 Do you ever throw bricks up into the
sky at your school? Try it some time. Even
if you wear thick gloves, your fingertips
will be bleeding in just fifteen or twenty
minutes. Well, I kind of liked seeing a house
get built and thinking that I had played a
75 part, but I knew that if I ever worked again
on a crew of brick masons, I wasn't going
to be the guy at the bottom, throwing the
bricks up, his fingers bleeding.

80 I also tried different jobs during the
school year. I worked in a supermarket
bagging groceries, in a fast-food restaurant
frying French fries, and even walked door-
to-door selling seeds for people's vegetable
gardens.

85 Yes, I worked during the school year, in
the afternoons and on weekends, but I never
worked more than fifteen hours a week.
That seems to be key to me—not whether
you work a part-time job, but whether you
90 work too much while you're a student.
Ten hours of part-time work a week? No
problem. I mean, really, do students have
to study so much in high school that they
don't even have ten hours to do something

95 else? Rules against working a few hours a week are ridiculous.

100 On the other hand, I understand that Japanese students, once they get to college, make up for lost time when it comes to working part-time. My friend said that he worked in a night club, serving food and drinks and washing dishes—until three or four in the morning.

105 “I’d sleep an hour or two, take a shower, and go to class.”

“You mean you worked until three or four in the morning during the week—on school nights?”

“All my friends did.”

110 Could that really be true? All his friends were walking into their morning classes, brains asleep and eyes bleary? Well, that’s going too far the other way. Sure, the

education you get at a part-time job can 115 complement the education you get in your university classrooms, but you’ve got to find the right balance.

Some students may have no choice but to work to pay their way through college, 120 but for others who are only working so they can buy clothes and compact discs, only working for money to go out on dates and with their friends, I suggest two basic rules. One—don’t work any job that doesn’t allow 125 you to get a full night’s sleep when you have class the next day. And two—don’t work more than fifteen hours a week. Except during summer vacation... when you’re free to throw as many bricks up into the sky as 130 you like.

* * *

Comprehension

● Questions

After reading the essay, answer the questions below.

1. Why didn’t Freddy’s Japanese friend get a job during her high school summer vacation?

.....

2. Where did Freddy work between his sophomore and junior years in high school?.....

.....

3. How did Freddy get a ten-dollar tip?

.....

4. What important lesson did Freddy learn working with a crew of brick masons?

.....

5. What is Freddy’s opinion regarding college students who have a job?

.....

● Create your own questions

Using the words or expressions given, write comprehension questions about the contents of the essay. Be ready to ask your classmates your questions.

1. an absolute fool

.....

2. wheelbarrow

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3. door-to-door

.....

4. no problem

.....

5. the right balance

.....

Vocabulary

Here are some key words from the essay.

get going luggage make up for lost time complement sophomore crew

● English-English check

Match each word or phrase from the box above with its definition below.

1. _____ to go well with ~
2. _____ a second-year student in a four-year high school or university
3. _____ to hurry up to go somewhere or start something
4. _____ suitcases and bags used when traveling
5. _____ a team of workers
6. _____ to do something faster because of delays before

● Words in action

Fill in each blank with the best word or phrase from the box above. You may have to change the form of the words.

1. I didn't study at all for the last few weeks. Now I have to _____.
2. This red wine _____ roast beef very well.
3. Now I'm a _____. Next year I'll be a junior.
4. Hey, we're going to be late. Let's _____.
5. That restaurant has a great _____ of waiters and waitresses. All of them are efficient, friendly, and knowledgeable.
6. When we flew to Europe, we were only allowed to check in two pieces of _____.

Speaking practice

● Sample conversation

Read the conversation and practice it with a partner. Underline any structures and expressions you think you can use in future conversations.

- Sarah: What do you think about high school students getting part-time jobs?
- Taku: In my opinion, they shouldn't. In high school, students should focus on their studies.
- Sarah: But don't you think it's important for them to experience the real world before they graduate?
- Taku: Yes, I do. So if they want to visit businesses and companies to learn about them, that's fine. But if they have part-time jobs, they won't spend enough time on studying and doing club activities. For high school students, their studies and club activities are more valuable than part-time jobs.
- Sarah: I don't disagree with you about that. But I still think that working part-time can be an eye-opening experience for many high school students. As long as they limit the number of hours they work, I think it's okay.
- Taku: I'm afraid I disagree. Even working a little will, I think, negatively affect their study.

● Speaking drill

With a partner, practice the short conversation below, using the items given. In the case of (X), think of something appropriate to say.

A: What do you think about (1)?
B: In my opinion, they shouldn't. (2)
A: I agree. / I'm afraid I disagree. (X)

- (a) high school students working (b) students sleeping in class (c) men becoming nurses (d) people smoking on public sidewalks (e) young children watching a lot of TV
- (a) They should focus on studying. (b) It's rude. (c) Patients feel more comfortable with women. (d) Their smoke really bothers other people. (e) They should be outside, playing.

Let's talk!

Think about the questions below. Write down your thoughts about them. Then discuss them with your classmates.

1. What part-time jobs have you or your friends had? What are the good and bad points of each job?
2. Should high school students be allowed to have part-time jobs? Why or why not?
3. As a university student, what's the best balance between study, work, and other activities?

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Language discovery

During your discussion, what vocabulary, expressions, and structures did you need? What useful language did you pick up from your classmates or teacher? Make a list here.

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