

## JOB AND CAREERS

### A. Reading

#### General Comprehension

In this section you are given a text to read. You should first read it through, even if you do not understand it all, looking especially at the way it is set out in paragraphs. This will give you a general idea what it is about and how it is arranged.

Now read the passage. Remember that you do not need to understand every word in order to answer the questions. You will probably need to read it several times.

### Sleepy Japanese Workers Cost Economy Billions of Yen

**TOKYO:** Japan's corporate warriors aren't getting enough sleep – and it's costing the country billions.

In the country that gives the world the word *karoshi*, or death from overwork, drowsy employees turning up late, taking days off or struggling to stay awake on the job are causing economic losses of some \$30 billion a year, according to a survey.

“Not everyone who is sleepy at work is lazy,” said researcher Makoto Uchiyama. “It's hard to tell your boss that you are sleepy, but ignoring the problem can lead to the losses in the long run.” – *Reuters*

(Taken from: *The Jakarta Post: Saturday, June 10, 2006*)

#### Exercise

Answer the following questions based on the text.

1. What's the meaning of “Karoshi”?
2. What are causing economic losses in Japan?
3. Are there any advantages of Japanese sleepy workers?
4. What's the meaning of the statement “It's costing the country billions.”?
5. Can you give some examples of “works ethos” of Japanese workers?



## B. Vocabulary

### Words Related to the World of Work

The above text talks about jobs and careers. Are you familiar with words connected with work in general? You probably already know many of them. Some job-titles are found in a wide range of different work places. Look at the following examples and check the general meanings in a dictionary.

lawyer	dentist	hairdresser	mechanic
farmer	vet	librarian	psychotherapist
child-minder	police officer	accountant	engineer
firefighter	civil servant	tailor/dressmaker	architect
designer	builder	carpenter	plumber
scientist	chef	priest	driver

### Exercise

Here are some **professions** (jobs that require considerable training and/or qualifications) and **trades** (skilled manual jobs requiring on-the-job and other training)

boss	manager	executive
secretary	skilled worker	unskilled worker
receptionist	safety officer	director
security officer	union official	economist
personnel officer	sales assistant	adviser
education officer	research worker	supervisor
public relations officer	administrator	labourer

Which of the job-titles above would best describe the following?

1. The person who represents the workers' interests in disputes with the management in a factory.
2. A person who has a high (but not the highest) position in a company and whose job is to make important decisions.
3. An important person in a company who sits on the Board.
4. A worker whose job requires no special training.
5. A person generally in charge of the day-to-day administration in a company.
6. A person who makes sure there are no risks of accidents from machinery, etc.
7. A person whose job is to keep an eye on the day-to-day work of other workers.
8. A person who does hard physical work.
9. The person who handles applications for vacant posts.
10. The person who gives out information to the press for a company.



## C. Grammar

### Noun Phrases

In the previous chapter we have learn about noun phrase, in this chapter we will learn further a bout it.

A noun can be expanded into a noun phrase by adding a word or group of words before it. Such a word is called a **pre-modifier** or just **modifier**. It is called a pre-modifier because it is placed before the noun acting as the headword of the phrase. It may give more information about a particular noun, identify it or describe it in more detail.

A noun can also be expanded into a noun phrase by adding a word or group of words after it. Such a word is used to add further information about the noun, or the headword, referred to. It is called a **post-modifier** because it is placed after the noun. It is also called a **qualifier**. A post modifier or qualifier can then be defined as any word or group of words after a headword (a noun) and is part of the noun phrase. It can also qualify an indefinite pronoun and ‘those’.

A noun phrase can have both modifiers and qualifiers simultaneously. We have to pay attention to the possible combinations of both. When a noun is added with a modifier and/or a qualifier, the resulting construction is a noun phrase. It is a phrase (group of words) that has a noun as the head of the phrase. This is commonly called the **head word** of the phrase.

### Modifiers

There are several words that can function as modifiers in noun phrases. They are articles (*a, an, the*), possessive adjectives (*my, his, her*), descriptive adjectives (*careful, excellent, happy*) demonstrative adjectives (*this, that, these, those*), quantifiers (*one, two, three, first, second, third, some, much, many*), present participles (*waiting, running, rising*), past participles (*broken, stolen, shared*) and classifying nouns (*car, ghost, village*). It is possible to use some types of modifier in a noun phrase.

#### 1. Articles and Deictics

*a man*  
*the doctor*  
*an elephant*  
*many students*

#### 2. Possessive Adjectives

*your comments*  
*their problems*

#### 3. Descriptive Adjectives

*a new idea*  
*many good remarks*

#### 4. Demonstrative Adjectives

*that meeting*  
*those new workers*

#### 5. Quantifiers

*two boys*  
*several young girls*

#### 6. Present Participles (‘-ing’ form verbs)

*their speeding cars*  
*rising stars*

#### 7. Past Participles (‘-ed’ form verbs)

*broken windows*  
*car factories*  
*several used books*  
*ghost stories*



### Exercise 1

Identify the *head word* and the *modifiers* of the following noun phrases.

1. a response
2. a consumer's desire
3. our personal scale
4. essential commodities
5. those medical expenses
6. many non-essential commodities
7. the special furniture sales
8. their true important basic food values
9. valuable old traditional Javanese philosophy
10. our scale of preferences

### Exercise 2

Copy out all the noun phrases in the following sentences and identify their *head words* and *modifiers*. (You must be able to find 10 noun phrases)

The bananas are typical perishable goods. By "perishable" we mean unstoreable goods. Most food stuffs are in the perishable category. These goods are offered for cheap sales as quickly as possible, so the of perishable supply and the perishable stock usually have equal quantity.

### Exercise 3

Now, rewrite the following sentences, placing the modifiers and qualifiers in brackets in correct positions. The headwords are printed bold.

Example: That **book** is mine. (on the table, English)  
That English **book** on the table is mine.

1. The **lecture** is very interesting. (evening, on life in Tibet)
2. The **salesman** sold a **car** to John. (used, who waited on you)
3. Jim has read **books**. (many, on photography)
4. The **question** was difficult (examination, third)
5. The **people** enjoyed the concert. (few, who came)
6. Two **knives** are sharp. (steel, those, that are in the drawer)
7. Mr Black bought a **suit** yesterday. (grey, flannel)
8. The women wore **dresses** to the opera. (new, their, evening)
9. Yesterday I met **people**. (interesting, several, who work in television)
10. The **men** are **officers**. (wearing the uniforms, army, Australian)



*The winds of God are always blowing, but you must set the sails.*