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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## 6 Minute English

### Should schoolchildren have jobs?

*NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript*

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**Neil**

Hello and welcome to 6 Minute English. I'm Neil and joining me today is Dan who is a producer at BBC Learning English – that's his job.

**Dan**

Hi everyone... Yes that is my job, obviously – why are we discussing that now, Neil?

**Neil**

Well you haven't always been a producer at BBC Learning English, have you?

**Dan**

No... I used to be a teacher.

**Neil**

And before that? Way back – your first ever job?

**Dan**

Ah, I had a **paper round** when I was 14. A paper round is a job – the job of delivering newspapers to people's homes. It's often done by teenagers.

**Neil**

14 seems very young to be at work. And that's the topic of this 6 Minute English: Should schoolchildren have jobs? It seems fewer and fewer are these days, according to the statistics. We'll give you 6 job-related words and expressions – and, of course, our quiz question. You Ready?

**Dan**

You bet!

**Neil**

What is the youngest age at which children are allowed to work in the UK?

a) 12

- b) 13
- c) 14

**Dan**

Well, I'm going to say 14 just because that's how old I was and it seems a long time ago!

**Neil**

We'll find out at the end of the programme. Let's start by hearing some British teenagers talking about their **Saturday jobs**.

**Dan**

A Saturday job is the name we give to part-time work that teenagers do for extra money. As the name suggests, these jobs often take place on Saturdays – but not always.

**Neil**

That's right - 'Saturday job' is general term we use to describe part-time work done by teenagers. The work might take place on Sundays or any day of the week, in fact! Let's hear from these British children about their Saturday jobs.

**Insert Vox**

We have to face all the stuff on the shelves and make it look organised and show customers where products are if they need to know.

On the average week I work nine hours, so two hours for two school nights and then I work four hours on a Saturday and two hours on a Sunday. And then in the school holidays I can work more.

**Dan**

The first kid said the work involves making the shelves look organised. Shop work is a very typical Saturday job.

**Neil**

Oh yes, I spent many a weekend and evening stacking shelves! The second teenager's Saturday job takes place Saturdays, Sundays and evenings. As we said – A Saturday job's not just for Saturdays.

**Dan**

A Saturday job is seen almost as a **rite of passage** in the UK. A rite of passage is the name we give to events or ceremonies that form an important stage in a person's life.

**Neil**

That's right – like graduating from school, or having children. But according to the latest statistics in the UK, that is all changing. Listen to this BBC report.

**Insert BBC reporter**

In order to work, they need a permit from the local authority and our data shows the number being issued has fallen from nearly 30,000 permits in 2012 to just 23,000 in 2016. Employers frequently **bemoan** the lack of work experience young people have. But teenagers are also facing pressure not to take up part-time jobs and to concentrate on their studies instead.

**Dan**

So, it seems that fewer teenagers are taking Saturday jobs. But there's a conflict here.

**Neil**

Yes, on the one hand, employers bemoan the lack of work experience young people have. Bemoan, meaning complain about. It's a rather formal word.

**Dan**

But on the other hand, teenagers are facing pressure not to take part-time jobs and to concentrate on their studies. Some people think working could be **detrimental** to a schoolchild's academic progress.

**Neil**

Detrimental - which means causing harm. It's a tricky one, isn't it? I think my Saturdays spend stacking shelves and serving fish 'n' chips taught me valuable lessons about working with adults and also managing my money. I don't think it was detrimental to my education.

**Dan**

Well, you managed to get a job at BBC Learning English! As for me, my paper round taught me the value of hard work. It didn't **hinder** me. Hinder means to stop someone or something from making progress.

**Neil**

Well let's not talk too much in case we hinder our students... On to the answer to our quiz question. I asked this: What is the youngest age at which children are allowed to work in the UK?

- a) 12
- b) 13
- c) 14

**Dan**

I said c) 14.



**Neil**

And I'm afraid you are wrong. You are allowed to work from the age of 13 in the UK. Exceptions to this rule include TV, theatre and modelling.

**Dan**

Oh well – I guess I should have spent more time at school.

**Neil**

Shall we have a recap of the vocabulary?

**Dan**

Did you have a paper round as a kid, Neil?

**Neil**

No I didn't, but I did help my best friend James deliver newspapers - in return for a pound. Big money back in the 80s!

**Dan**

Did you supplement your earnings with a **Saturday job**?

**Neil**

I did. I had a Saturday job in a supermarket and also in a fish 'n' chip shop – but it wasn't always on a Saturday. Free chips! Dan is that a wedding ring on your finger?

**Dan**

Yes it is. Marriage is a rite of passage in many cultures. It is an important stage in a person's life – talking of which, are those your kids on your screensaver?

**Neil**

Yep – having children is another example of a rite of passage. See how tired I look!

**Dan**

Do not bemoan your lack of sleep! Bemoan's a quite formal way of saying 'complain about'.

**Neil**

I think it's OK to bemoan my lack of sleep – it can have a detrimental effect on my health.

**Dan**

Detrimental – meaning harmful. As long as your tiredness doesn't hinder your work on 6 Minute English

**Neil**

Well, I'd never let anything hinder – meaning stop from making progress – 6 Minute English.



**Dan**

I admire your dedication! Goodbye!

**Neil**

See ya!