

I like work, I'm hardly ever off sick. Even before I had my own business, I had to have a temperature of 40 degrees before I'd stay at home.

In the past, in the concentration camp they had a sign up saying 'Work liberates'. I mean, without work you're not free, you can't move around freely because you're always dependent on someone. It's a stupid saying, but there is some truth in it. I could imagine living without work, if I had enough money. It's not like I have to work, I'm sure there are more pleasant things to life.



BAR OWNER

Work for me is an opportunity to prove yourself, to achieve something, to do something useful, to develop, to learn... it's simply fun. As well as the pursuit of my hobbies, I would also need something useful to do so I come home at night feeling satisfied. Sure, if you don't have to work for money you can do some voluntary work, in fact you should do. I'm not able to sit in an armchair and do nothing, I find it too boring. That's probably why I'd find it problematic not to have any work at all. Maybe you get used to it, but to keep yourself occupied with meaningful things the whole day wouldn't be so easy.



ESTATE AGENT



FACTORY WORKER

Well I like work. I also never have any difficulties finding work. It doesn't have to be paid work with a fixed job, frankly speaking, you can always find cash-in-hand jobs. I can also imagine not being permanently employed. I also work after hours for myself. Having no work at all, only a life of leisure, that's not for me. I have to create something myself, something you can see, then that's good. My work has to be seen. Why is work important? No work means no money, no money means no flat and no life – it's just not possible.



HOTEL RECEPTIONIST

I enjoy working. At home I would just vegetate, simply vegetate. And then if you apply and you try hard and you have an idea of what you want to achieve in life...well you have a certain status, I'm counting on, something like 2000 Euros per month and I know what I can afford to buy with it, and if that money suddenly wouldn't be there anymore then you wouldn't feel so well.



CAR MECHANIC

Well, it used to be a bit of a hobby of mine and I've made it into my profession. Otherwise I don't think I would work at all, or not in this profession anyway, if I didn't enjoy it. After my apprenticeship I tried working in an office, but that's not for me. I can't sit around the whole day, I can't do it, at least not in an office, I really have to do something craft-oriented. I guess, there should be a balance: Nice as it may be to enjoy one's work, if one can't live off that work anymore, then that's gonna bear down on your soul as well.



EU ADVISER

I would go along with Aristotle when he says that Philosophy needs leisure. That is, I think, if you work too much, you can no longer think about the whole picture and that ends up being damaging as well, that is, you turn into a bit of a hamster in a wheel, that is working incredibly hard but is not really moving ahead. And that I would also consider dangerous. I think I would take it a bit more easy, professionally, i.e. maybe work only part-time, but I wouldn't like to do entirely without those, let's call them mechanisms of compulsion, that come with work, because then lethargy might start to take over.

Berlin, Germany

What does work mean to me? It's my life. If I didn't work I'd get bored. I would even work weekends, if there was something to be done. If I sit around for an hour I get nervous, I have to do something. I can't just sit back in a deck chair, as if I was on holiday. That maybe works for two weeks or so, but then I get nervous and then I have to do something. If I had enough money, I wouldn't work 12 hours a day, I don't know, maybe I'd take over some sort of a company or a shop and run it, so that I'd have things to do for at least 3 hours. But definitely not here anymore, I'd definitely do something else.



PRINTER

Yes, to me this is something really important. I live with it and it is my vocation. Work is for me also a realisation of my ideals and that makes it something very, very important. Work is more and more loosing the original characterization that it used to have - as a means of realising an individual's full potential in society. Now work is turning more and more into an apparently self-serving thing, to make money in order to realise your goals. I think that's wrong.

Work should definitely be such that humans can live out their positive qualities through it. In my opinion that's what work is about.



TEACHER



SHOPKEEPER

So work is important and work is fun, or, let's say, I enjoy the work I'm doing. If that wasn't the case, I couldn't do a good job. No, it makes me feel good, it makes me happy, if I didn't enjoy work, I wouldn't be doing it.