

What makes people happy at work?

(LEVEL B1/B2+)

Part 1: SPEAKING

As a warm-up ask your ss to brainstorm a few factors that can motivate people at work and/or make them happy at work. Board a few ideas. Brief feedback as a class. (appx. 3-5 minutes)

Pre-teach: perks, competitive, varied

Hand out exercise 1 (in larger groups - one set per pair)

Set the task by giving clear instructions. Allow appx. 5-8 minutes for a discussion. Brief feedback as a class

EX.1. Take a look at different factors below that typically motivate people at work. Which ones motivate you and your partner?

JOB SECURITY	FRIENDLY COLLEAGUES
GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH BOSS	PERKS
POSSIBILITIES TO DEVELOP	NICE OFFICE

COMPETITIVE SALARY	LOW LEVEL OF STRESS
GOOD WORK-LIFE BALANCE	FLEXIBLE WORKING HOURS
REAL RESPONSIBILITY	DOING VARIED JOB

Set the second task (exercise 2) by giving clear instructions. Allow ss appx. 5-8 minutes to order the factors and discuss the topic further. Feedback as a class.

EX.2 Order these factors in terms of their importance: from the most important to the least important. Check with your partner and discuss any differences/similarities.

Part 2: SPEAKING

Show ss the picture. You can pin it to the whiteboard/flipchart, show it on your laptop or make a few copies and hand them out in the group (one per 2-3 people).

Set the task. Allow appx. 3-5 minutes for your ss to brainstorm ideas. Brief feedback.

Possible answers may include: a hotel, a holiday resort, a bar, a restaurant etc.

Answer: It's a headquarters of a British company called Innocent Drinks which is based in London and was voted one of the coolest office spaces in the world.

EX.3. Look at the picture below. Where do you think it is? Discuss your ideas with your partner.



Source: <http://now-here-this.timeout.com>

Part 3: WATCHING

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9c2kj3nSuyQ>

Set the next task. Give clear instructions and inform ss that they will watch the video twice. Tell them to focus on Exercise 4 first.

Pre-teach: a nap, a life coach, morale

EX.4. Watch the video and decide if the statements are true or false.

1. Office parades happen at Zappos every day. F (*they happen nearly every day*)
2. Zappos is a shoe and clothing company based in Las Vegas. T
3. Zappos CEO says that employees' happiness is the key to better customer service. T
4. According to Tony Hsieh, taking a nap may reduce employee's effectiveness at work. F (*it can greatly improve productivity*)
5. An in-house life coach is there to help employees deal with various issues. T
6. Morale has an influence on employees' productivity. T

Tell your ss to compare their answers. Play the video again and tell ss to focus on Exercise 5 now.

EX. 5. Now watch the video again and complete the missing expressions.

1. Zappos is an office where **weirdness** is encouraged and **spontaneous** parades happen on regular basis.
2. Having fun at Zappos is **job one**. (*collq.*)
3. The company's CEO, Tony Hsieh thinks that an enjoyable office environment is **vital** to success.
4. Office perks include: in-house massages, a nap room and a **concierge** service which will arrange for your car to be washed and your pants **hemmed**.
5. Sitting on a **throne** helps employees to build up their **self-esteem**.

After watching the video allow ss to compare their answers. Explain any new vocabulary. Feedback as a class. (appx.10 mins)

At the end tell your ss to swap partners and discuss the final questions. Allow appx. 8 -10 minutes.

Feedback: Ask ss if they agreed or disagreed with each other. Ask them to report what the other student said.

After watching:

- 1. Would you like to work in such an office environment? Why/Why not?**
- 2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of working in such an office?**

Vocabulary revision: TABOO

Tell your ss that they will now practise the new vocabulary. They will get a set of cards (one per pair) and will have to take a card, read a word and explain it to the partner WITHOUT using the word on the card. The student who guesses more words – wins.

TO HEM	A NAP
SELF-ESTEEM	VITAL
CONCIERGE	PERKS
COMPETITIVE	VARIED