

Unit 7, p. 103 top

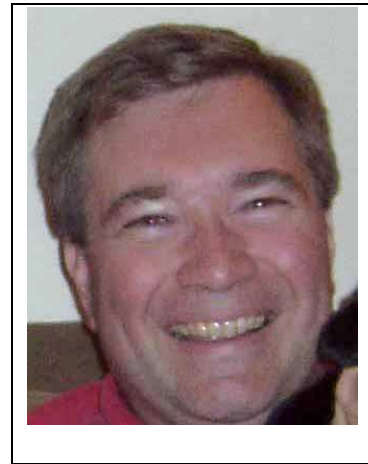
 My working life

Read or listen to what Bernard says about his working life. What were the various jobs that Bernard did?

“I’ve done quite a few jobs in my time. Yes, after doing engineering at college I went to sea for a few years. In the merchant navy. I got to travel the world. That’s where I really learned to work with machines. The old freighters that we used were always breaking down!

When you were at sea, you had to work all day and night sometimes. At other times there was nothing to do. After most trips there was shore leave: a couple of weeks or so at home.

It wasn’t very family-friendly so I took severance pay and became a publican. I bought a country pub. I enjoyed the social contact but I had to do all the accounts and the stock control myself. Long hours again, hard work and not much time off. Shut down and you lost your customers.



My wife was interested in working part-time as a librarian but there was no library in our village. And I decided I wanted a well-paid job with fixed hours and a nice long annual holiday. I wanted a good pension, too, and maybe some extra health insurance. I had two sons by then. So we moved into town.

I worked for a Garden Centre and DIY chain. I was in charge of the tools department first, then I became the manager of a whole store and finally I was promoted to regional manager.

I retired on a good pension two years ago. I’ve got a little job, you know, to keep me on my toes. I look after the bar and clubhouse. I’m my own boss – I can always take time off if I feel like it. And I can play golf for free!”

Now answer these questions:

- 1 What do we find out about Bernard’s education?
- 2 What do we find out about his family and his personal life?
- 3 What did he like and dislike about his various jobs?
- 4 Which of Bernard’s jobs would you like to do?

Collect all the words and expressions to do with work from the text and check you know their German equivalents.