

Unpaid Work

Most workers earn money in exchange for the work they do, but some do not. These are special types of workers doing special types of work. We call this unpaid work. Unpaid work is when someone performs work but doesn't receive money for doing the job. People may choose to participate in unpaid work for a variety of reasons. There are many different types of unpaid work in our world.

Some workers perform unpaid work while they learn about the skills and knowledge needed to be successful in their future job. This type of work is known as an internship. An internship is a type of job where workers often don't get paid at all or might get paid less than full time workers with training. Many people work at an internship job so they can learn more about that type of job. For example, a student may become an intern at a bank to find out if she would like to be a banker as her future job. Internships allow people to practice a job before they choose the type of paid work they will do. Even though intern workers do not get paid much for the work they do, they gain useful experience and learn important skills that will help them become a better worker in the future.

Some people volunteer to do work without getting paid. To volunteer means to give your time, without pay, to benefit other people or a cause you want to help. People who volunteer give their time as a gift to help others. One example of volunteering is someone who walks dogs at an animal shelter. The volunteer dog-walker doesn't get paid to walk the dogs, but he wants to help the dogs so he is willing to do the work without receiving pay. People volunteer in different ways. Without volunteers, many businesses could not do some of the things they do. Any time you see a volunteer, it's good to thank them for their service. There may be a volunteer in your classroom some time! People choose to volunteer for many different reasons. Can you think of some?



Family members perform unpaid work when they care for family members who cannot care for themselves. One example of unpaid work is a father who cares for his family by cleaning, washing clothes, cooking, shopping, and looking after his young children. Another example is a mother who provides care for a sick grandparent. Family members perform this type of unpaid care work for the well-being of their families. When you keep your room clean or take care of a pet, you are performing unpaid work. What other types of unpaid work do you and your family members do?