

Happiness is a snip away

worksheet A

1. Find three reasons why hairdressers are happy.

So what is it about being a hairdresser that makes you happy? Jonathan Pickup, who works at the Slice Salon in Newcastle and has been a hairdresser for 21 years, says, 'It's quite a young environment – it's quite trendy. You mix with quite a lot of young people. You get to my age and it is quite nice to be around people who are eager in their job.'

Michael Osbaldeston from examination body City & Guilds, who conducted the survey, said there were lots of reasons why happiness and hairdressing should go hand in hand. 'It is the relationship they have with their client which makes the job what it is ... They are appreciated. They make people feel good and look good.'

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____

2. Match the jobs with the things those people might work with.

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|------------------|------------------|
| 1. clergy | a. engines |
| 2. chef | b. houses |
| 3. beautician | c. food |
| 4. plumber | d. families |
| 5. mechanic | e. the Bible |
| 6. social worker | f. bathrooms |
| 7. architect | g. new buildings |
| 8. estate agent | h. make-up |

3. Complete the conclusion of the article with the jobs from the previous page.

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Do you want a job that brings you happiness? If so, you might want to consider hairdressing as a career. A new league table has said that hairdressers are the happiest workers in the UK.

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But before you get out your curling tongs and enrol on the nearest hairdressing course, see what other hairdressers have to say! Here are some of the comments posted on the BBC website following this story.

'I am a former hairdresser ... and gave up 8 years ago to do a degree. I am now working at a university and have regular hours, no back problems, Saturdays to do what I want with and no late nights. There is nothing I miss about hairdressing ...' Jill Handley from Norwich

'I did summer work [at a hairdresser's] as a teenager and hated every minute of it. There was no way in the world I would want to be a stylist and [I am] now very content working in IT.'

So maybe there are a few downsides to being a hairdresser, even if the job does make some happy – long hours and a lot of standing may not make everyone happy. If hairdressing isn't your thing, then you'll be glad to hear that the same survey found that, as well as hairdresser, _____, _____, _____, _____ and _____ were also happy jobs to have.

However, to save yourself from unhappiness in your job avoid being a(n) _____, _____ and _____! Maybe it's about being able to do something practical or creative that makes you happy?

4. Discuss these questions in your group.

What might be the five best and worst jobs in your country?

What are the most important things about a job? For example, salary, colleagues, working hours?

What would be the perfect job for you?