

# My Summer Job

A few teachers have shared their summer job stories. In groups, decide which story is from which teacher. Discuss within the group who you think did what and what makes you believe that. Write the names on post-its and place them on the texts. Remember to speak only English!

## Teachers to choose from:

- **Mia**, teacher of English and German
- -, teacher of languages
- -, teacher of math and science
- -, teacher of math and science
- -, teacher of art
- -, teacher of Swedish and English
- -, teacher of woodwork

Note: there are ten stories but only seven names. This means that some teachers have told more than one story!

# Story 1

I worked at McDonald's and at the library. In both cases I went there personally and asked to talk to the boss. In that way the boss got a first (hopefully) good and personal face to face impression.

McDonald's was very stressful but I got to know new friends and we had a lot of fun. The library was the opposite of McDonalds concerning the stress, I really enjoyed to work with older colleagues though, they used to tell funny stories about their lives.

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## Story 2

When I was 15 something, I had a summer job as an engineering assistant at Sony Ericsson. I worked at their department responsible for developing terrestrial cell sites and many of the associated technologies that were required for the cell sites to function properly (like GSM, UMTS, LTE).

Our mobile phones are connected by a cellular network and they basically created hardware and software that improved the reception, latency and the data transfer speed.

It sounds quite complicated, but the tasks I were assigned during my summer there were totally basic. Much of it were focused on organizing components, taking inventory, moving lab equipment etc.

The best part about the job?

I got to climb a mobile telephone tower! Once in a while I got to tag along while they installed new cell sites. That meant they had to drive out to a telephone tower somewhere with a bunch of equipment and computers and rigg everything up and merge it with the network antenna. During one of these trips, they had to climb the tower for some reason, and i got to go with!

Worst part about the job?

My everyday tasks were quite monotonous and I grew quite bored over the summer. I had expected to be more involved in the work the engineers at Ericsson did, but obviously I was lacking knowledge to help out with those kinds of things.

All in all, it was kind of cool to work at a large tech company such as Ericsson. I was quite naive and my expectations were way off and I recall being quite disappointed with the job as a whole.

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## Story 3

I planted pine trees. I got the job through my father, who was in touch with different landowners and forest companies. The best part was that I earned a lot of money doing this and you could earn more money if you worked hard. I was paid a certain amount of money for every plant I put in the ground. The worst part was the effort, it was exhausting. There were also lots of mosquitos and gnats. The thousands of trees I planted back then are probably about seven meters tall now.

Another bonus is that the trees I planted every summer until I was 23 years old have taken a lot of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. When all the trees I have planted have finished growing they will have taken about two billion kilograms or carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, that have been turned to wood. This means I have planted pine trees the equivalent of about 180 000 years of carbon dioxide usage.

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## Story 4

\* Worked at a bookshop - inventory. Love books so I liked it. My friend's mother owned the shop.

\* Cleaned at a fire station. Don't remember how I got the job. It was ok.

\* Cleaned at different companies, for instance cleaned up the mess after they had tested medicine on animals, which was not the best job I've had, but still ok.

\* Worked at SJ preparing trains before passengers got on. Worked with people from all over the world, like Somalia and Iran, so I enjoyed it. My brother worked extra there, so that's how I got the job.

\* Home care services for elderly people. Loved it.

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## Story 5

At my first job I worked as a cleaner woman in a school. It was my aunt who helped me get the job because she needed help at the big house cleaning company over the summer. It was very educational because you could see how much the students messed up that you never think about. Like chewing gum under the tables and doodle on walls that we had to clean and that was not very fun. The good thing was that the money was pretty good.

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## Story 6

When I was 15 I saw an ad in the newspaper about selling flags during a major sporting event in Gothenburg. Me and my best friend called the number in the ad and got the job. We ended up selling flags, t-shirts and other things to tourists during a busy week. We worked long days, but being together as best friends made it a great week. We earned enough money to eat at McDonald's every day and also had some money left afterwards. I remember buying my first clothes that my parents couldn't say anything about with that money. That was freedom for me at the time.

Later I worked at Liseberg, in the fast food section, for two summers and a Christmas season. I prepared nachos, kebabs, noodles, hot dogs, ice cream, popcorn and candyfloss. The pay wasn't great, but I made some great friends there. I have lots of memories from those days, for example when I happened to tear open a 20 kg sack of sugar that opened up and emptied itself on the floor. I had to stand on a mountain of sugar for an hour, before my manager could help me remove it.

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## Story 7

I used to clean hotel rooms from the age of 15. I got that job by walking into the hotel and asking the owner if I could work there. I could. It wasn't the best of jobs, but I earned money, which I thought was nice.

I also worked at a company that produces figurines and jewelry made out of tin during a few summers. I also got that job by asking the owner. I was about 16 at the time.

I also earned money from picking pine cones and berries that I sold to certain buyers. Cloudberries can be found in the forest and are sometimes called "the gold of the forest". You could earn up to 70:- per kilo and in one day you could pick about 10-15 kilos of cloudberries if you knew where to look, so there was a lot of money to be made.

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## Story 8

I had a summer job at a antiquarian bookshop at the age of 10. Got the job through my uncle, it was nice and I learned a lot.

I started working at one of those farms that are open to kids to learn about farming (4H) at the age of 12. I worked there during the weekends as well, feeding the animals and teaching kids how to ride a horse once a week. I got the job through friends and I thought it was rewarding, but hard labor due to handling the animals.

One summer I worked at a factory where the produce beads and bead pegboards. I stood by machines, inspecting the pegboards, put them into their boxes and mixed beads of different colors in different combinations. I got this job from our school doing volunteer work there to get money for charity (operation dagsverke), and those who worked well could get a summer job. It was boring, monotonous and made me study harder in school, because I knew I didn't want to end up with that kind of a job in the future.

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## Story 9

One of the first summer jobs I ever had was at a farm. I'm not quite sure how I the job, but if i recall correctly I found out about it by reading an ad in our local newspaper.

I do remember calling the farmer who requested help and told him I was interested - and I got the job! At the farm I was always busy and got to do a variety of different task. Everything you imagine a farmer would do during summertime – milking cows, necking chicken, planting crops, fixing fences, digging ditches and much more. It was hard and gritty work and gave me a lot of valuable experiences.

I find it hard to say exactly what was the best part about it. I guess the best part was that it was never ever boring. It might sound cliché, but hey, I get easily bored and as sure as the setting sun there was never a dull moment at the farm.

The worst part about the job? That's easy! The worst part was all the poop-scooping. Cleaning up manure is not that romantic or exciting! We can all agree that poop is gross in all kinds of ways, and if you didn't already know, farm animals poop A LOT and ALL OF THE TIME!

In the end I'm glad I took the job. It was a great experience and it made me appreciate all the hard work our farmers do in order for us to have fresh food on the table. It also made me realise that becoming was not for me. I'm way to comfortable and would not have lasted longer than a summer.

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## Story 10

I used to work at a bookstore. My friend had an internship there from school and though that got a summer job, and when they needed more people she suggested I should apply. I ended up working at three different stores within the same chain for the next couple of years. In the small stores we were sometimes only two people working, which meant I got to do lots of different tasks. In the larger store more people had stead positions and special tasks, which meant I usually ended up at the cash register.

I really liked this job. It was stressful at times, as the days before Christmas and during the big book sale, but I love working at a high pace, so this suited me well. I also got to talk to lots of customers and had great fun with my colleagues. I miss the bookstore!

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