

Vocabulary: work 词汇: 工作

Being an **employee** at a company has many challenges – you want **job satisfaction**, a **work-life balance** and opportunities for **promotion**. But most of us want a decent **financial reward**. We aim to get a good salary to pay for the essential things in life plus a few luxuries. But when that's not enough, we have to do the hardest thing in the world – ask our boss for a **pay rise**!

In some companies, a regular annual pay rise is the norm – all staff get a fixed increase in their monthly **pay packet**. In other firms, workers might get a **bonus** to reward them for their efforts or for meeting a target. But for some people, a pay increase is something you have to ask for – and **if you don't ask, you don't get!**

Wage increases have been a sensitive issue in recent years. Due to the global economic recession, businesses had to **tighten their belts**. Most **public sector** pay in the UK, for example, was frozen for two years in 2010, and after that rises were **capped** at 1% - below the **rate of inflation**. But last month the government awarded them a pay rise above the 2% inflation rate so that teachers, for example, will get a 2.75% salary boost. That's the equivalent to £1,000 extra a year for those on an average **salary**.

But not everyone is happy at being given a **fixed pay rise** – they feel they're worth more and that they deserve more money. It's not something we should fear "asking for", says Pip Jamieson, founder of the professional networking site, The Dots. She's told the BBC "No one ever got fired for asking for a pay rise. In fact, rather the opposite - asking for more money shows ambition and shows you want to stay with the company."

It's something BBC Business Reporter Jamie Robertson has been looking into. He's found that you need to do your research and find out what kind of pay your job should be getting, perhaps by talking to your **Human Resources** department. You'll need to give good reasons for wanting more money and you'll still have to keep your increase within your **pay grade**. Ask for an exact sum and be prepared for some negotiation. Of course, if you can't get more cash then there are other **perks** you could ask for, such as **flexible working** or more time off. But if that gets you nowhere and your boss won't budge, maybe it's time to quit and find a new job?

词汇表

employee	员工，雇员
job satisfaction	工作满足感
work-life balance	工作与生活的平衡
promotion	晋升
financial reward	经济回报
pay rise	涨工资，加薪
pay packet	工资
bonus	奖金
if you don't ask, you don't get	如果你不要求，你就得不到
wage	工钱，报酬
tighten one's belt	勒紧裤腰带，省吃俭用
pay freeze	工资冻结
public sector	公营部门
capped	规定了上限
rate of inflation	通货膨胀率
salary	薪金
a fixed pay rise	固定的工资增长
Human Resources	人事部，人力资源部
pay grade	工资等级
perk	(工资外的) 补贴，津贴
flexible working	弹性工作时间

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. According to the article, why might a bonus be paid to someone?
2. What caused most public sector pay to be frozen back in 2010?
3. True or false? *The UK government has given public sector workers a 2% pay increase.*
4. According to Pip Jamieson, can you lose your job by asking for a pay rise?
5. Which word used in the article, means ‘have a right to something because of the way you have behaved’?

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I wanted a better _____ so I've cut my working hours to spend more time with the kids.

worked-life balance	work-life balance	life-work balance	work-life balanced
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2. Because of the _____, I regret we are going to have to close some positions at the company.

flexible working	employees	recession	rate of inflation
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3. After much _____, we have agreed a new pay deal which gives all staff a minimum pay rise of 2.5%.

ambition	promotion	capped	negotiation
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4. After paying for a holiday and a new car, I think it's time to _____.

tighten our belts	tight our belts	tighten the belt	tighter our belts
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5. Poor John. He got _____ because he arrived late for work three times this week.

quit	bonus	fired	flexible working
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. According to the article, why might a bonus be paid to someone?

Someone might be paid a bonus to reward them for their efforts (hard work) or meeting a target.

2. What caused most public sector pay to be frozen back in 2010?

The global economic recession caused public sector pay to be frozen for two years in 2010.

3. True or false? *The UK government has given public sector workers a 2% pay increase.*

False. Last month the government awarded them a pay rise above the 2% inflation rate.

4. According to Pip Jamieson, can you lose your job by asking for a pay rise?

No. She said “No one ever got fired for asking for a pay rise. In fact rather the opposite - asking for more money shows ambition and shows you want to stay with the company.”

5. Which word used in the article, means ‘have a right to something because of the way you have behaved’?

Deserve. “But not everyone is happy at being given a fixed pay rise – they feel they’re worth more and that they deserve more money.”

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I wanted a better **work-life balance** so I’ve cut my working hours to spend more time with the kids.

2. Because of the **recession**, I regret we are going to have to close some positions at the company.

3. After much **negotiation**, we have agreed a new pay deal which gives all staff a minimum pay rise of 2.5%.

4. After paying for a holiday and a new car, I think it’s time to **tighten our belts**.

5. Poor John. He got **fired** because he arrived late for work three times this week.