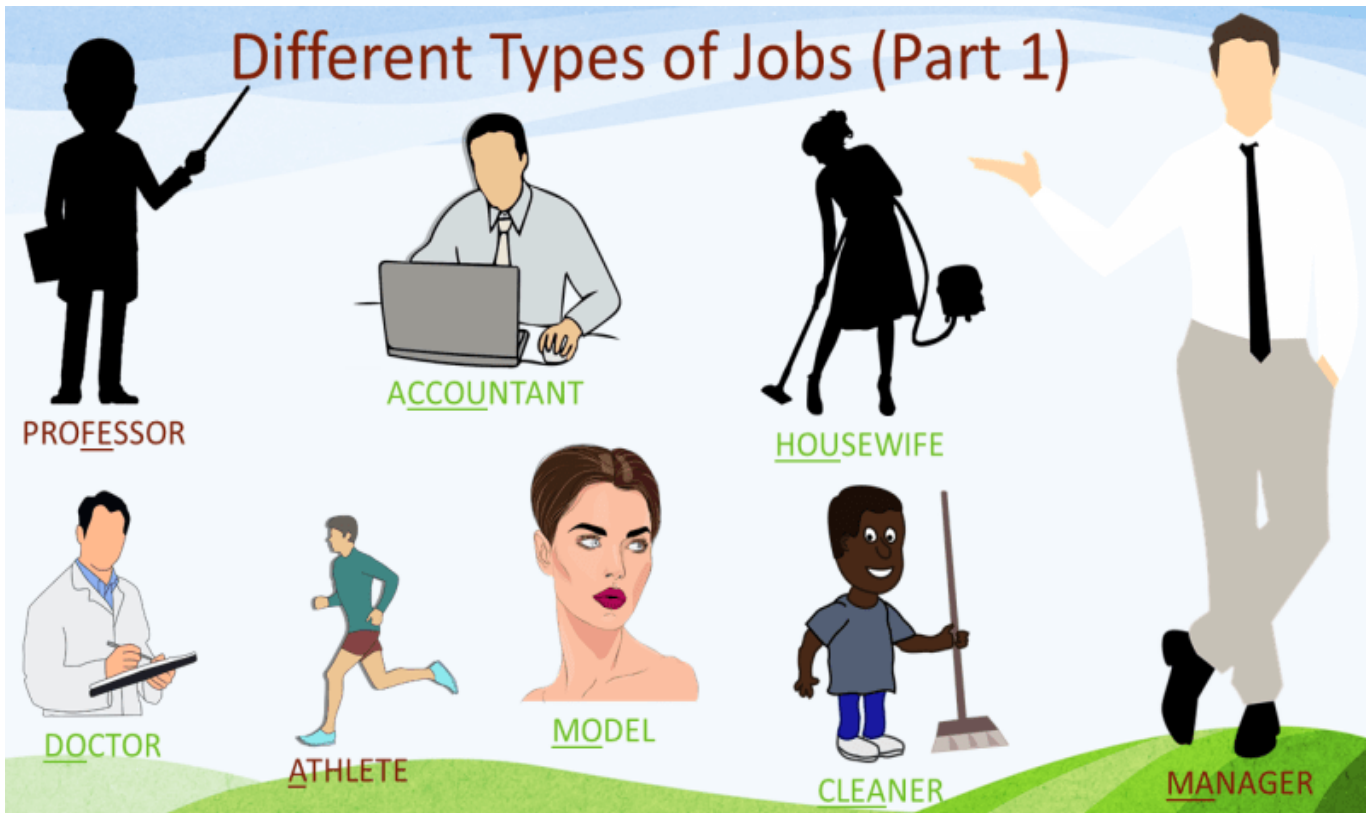


# Short Story: A Job for Joe

Level: A2-B1



Today is his lucky day. He finally has a job offer. It is true that when hope is gone, something unexpected happens and your dream finally comes true.

“Congratulations my son,” his mother told him on the phone. “I knew this day would arrive. I am so proud of you.”

His father did not say anything. He just held his hand for what seemed like ages. It has always been like that between them. Silence is the best expression of their love.

Joe knows that his family has been worried about him for a long time even though they have never told him. Two years on the job market is not easy and unwanted questions from random people were not helpful to get him out of his predicament.

*How was the interview? Does Joe finally have a job? How old is he? When is Joe going to look for his own house? When is Joe getting married? Does Joe have a girlfriend? Is Joe an engineer or a doctor? Did you say that Joe was an architect? Joe is a surgeon, isn't he?*

Good Lord! Those questions were annoying but he now knows what he is going to say to those people now.

*"I'm the Deputy Manager of Wellington Farming Enterprises."*

He can now start thinking seriously about his future. Of course, he will be able to find a small house. A bedsitter will do in the beginning and he can think of getting something bigger when he has saved enough money. He is not in a hurry to start a family of his own though. He has so many things to learn and this would not be fair for his-to-be wife. Besides, weddings are so expensive nowadays.

He checks the email again. It is true. He really has a job! His status has changed from jobseeker to future employee of Wellington Farming Enterprises. His Public Administration Bachelor's degree will now come to good use.

He remembers the interview. The only man in the four-member panel asked him what his personal qualities were. He told him that he was responsible, caring, demanding, empathetic, open-minded and good with animals. He thought that they would ask him many questions about his educational background. He did not study Agriculture at college level so he does not understand why they picked him for this job. Perhaps there is something that they saw in him that he is not aware of.

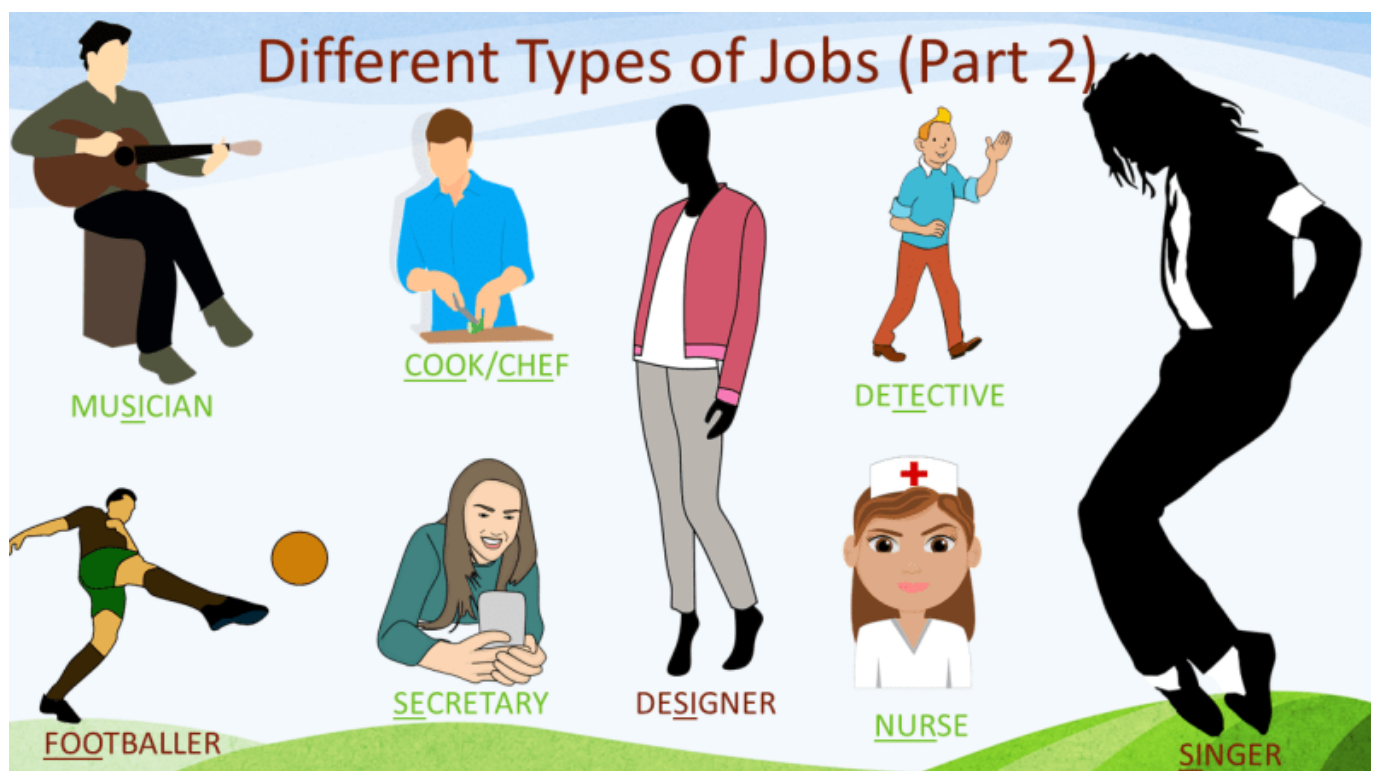
His siblings are happy for him. They have already asked him for video games and sneakers.

*"Your first salary will be for us,"* they said without ambiguity. He will indulge them.

He laughs. He imagines going to the Human Resources Manager and getting his first paycheck. Maybe the money will be directly deposited into his account. Maybe he will receive it in cash. The thing he is so sure of is that he will buy a set of sparkling pots for his dear mother. He might also replace his father's battery-operated radio with an electric one. He can do wonders with the salary of a Deputy Manager. He is also going to buy himself a new suit. He needs to be smart when he is going to work.

Working on a farm was not his dream job but he thinks that one has to be grateful for whatever opportunity they are given in life. Financial independence is important and he no longer wants to rely on his parents for upkeep money. He can start small but his career will be big. Who knows? He might end up as the General Manager of Wellington Farming Enterprises.

Whatever the job requirements are, he will do them with diligence and dedication. He will be punctual and committed and he will not act in an irresponsible manner. He does not want to waste this opportunity. He knows just how lucky he is. Many of his friends are still looking for jobs. The job market is saturated and he wonders if his younger brothers and sisters will have the same opportunities as he has now.



The following morning he goes to his workplace. It is a modern farm with new farming methods. They grow different types of crops like tea and maize but they also have some livestock. Joe will be responsible for paperwork both locally and regionally.

He asks if he can tour the farm. It is impressive and he feels that he has made the right choice to go and work there every day. It is only when they go and see the fields that he sees the cat. No, they are two cats, maybe three. Dear Lord-he is allergic to cats! He cannot work there. He has to turn the offer down. As they get nearer, he starts to sneeze and cough uncontrollably. The managing team understands. It is not the first time they have seen this.

Joe is despondent. His parents and siblings will be so disappointed. He will have to start looking for another job. He mentions this to the man on his right:

“Sir, I guess this is the end of everything. I can stand the stench of cow dung but I cannot control the way my body reacts to cats.”

No, Joe doesn't have to worry. His air-conditioned office will be far from the cats and he will never see them again, the man says. It was hard finding Joe in the first place, wasn't it, and they do not want to let him go so easily. Young men no longer want to work in remote areas, they add. No, Joe, doesn't have to worry about the cats. They will not be a nuisance. Joe does not have to worry about anything. This is not a problem at all.

Back home, Joe still cannot believe his luck. His salary is beyond his dreams. On top of that, he has benefits that he never would have thought of getting with a job in the city: a company car, a furnished house, medical insurance, car insurance and paid holidays! His job will be demanding and he likes challenges. On top of that, there will be plenty of opportunities for his career to grow. Wellington Farming Enterprises has ten farms in the entire country and they want to acquire some more.

When he goes to bed that night, he dreams of his future job and nothing can make him happier. Joe is a lucky young man. Joe has got a job, finally!

# Different Types of Jobs (Part 3)



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CARPENTER



WAITER



ENGINEER



DENTIST



TEACHER



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