



Activity description

Students investigate potential jobs and compare the wages. They then use a spreadsheet to calculate overtime rates of pay.

Suitability

Level 1 (Foundation)

Time

2 x 50-minute lessons

Resources

Student sheets

Optional: slideshow

Equipment

Local newspaper job advertisements

Calculators, computers with Microsoft Excel or similar

Key mathematical language

Wage, salary, basic pay, gross pay, net pay, overtime, spreadsheet, formula, convert percentage to decimal, rounding

Notes on the activity

Introduce the topic using job advertisements from your local paper. Draw attention to and discuss the information given in the advertisements (hours, wages, and so on). Students could then use more job advertisements or a careers search-engine to complete the worksheet on wages. Once students have completed the table, discuss the answers.

In the second lesson, students use a spreadsheet (or calculators if you prefer) to work out the overtime rates on the worksheet.

During the activity

Students could work individually, in pairs or small groups.

Points for discussion

Some 'Think about' and 'Reflection' questions are given on the worksheet. These are for use in class discussion. They could be extended, for example you could make comparisons and include some simple arithmetic. You could ask how much a worker would earn for a particular number of hours' work, or how much more one worker earns than another.

Extensions

Students could calculate weekly, monthly or annual wages for the jobs they are interested in (for example, by assuming a 40-hour week). They could add columns to their spreadsheet in order to calculate these. Consider including the calculation of overtime hours.

Answers

Name	Hourly rate	Double time	Time and a half	Time and a quarter
Annie	£5.00	£10.00	£7.50	£6.25
Ben	£6.00	£12.00	£9.00	£7.50
Cheryl	£5.50	£11.00	£8.25	£6.88
Dave	£5.70	£11.40	£8.55	£7.13
Ellen	£6.90	£13.80	£10.35	£8.63
Fred	£7.00	£14.00	£10.50	£8.75
Gracie	£8.20	£16.40	£12.30	£10.25
Harry	£9.45	£18.90	£14.18	£11.81
Isaac	£10.55	£21.00	£15.83	£13.19
Jess	£12.60	£25.20	£18.90	£15.75