



Do you have what it takes?

ESL work, A2+/B1





Warm-up 1: Challenging Careers

Think about jobs that are very difficult. Choose three jobs , talk about why they are hard using these ideas:

- The Place: Is it dangerous or far away?
- The Rules: Do they work at night? Do they work long hours?
- People: Do they see their family often?
- The Weather: Is it too hot or too cold?



Warm-up 2: Life in Antarctica

Imagine a small town in the middle of the ice. This is a research station in Antarctica. Scientists live there, but they need help! They need chefs, cleaners, and people to fix the lights.

If you moved to Antarctica for a year, what would be good about it? What would be bad?





Vocabulary

Are these definitions **True** or **False**?

1. **Remote**: A place that is very close to a big city.
2. **Maintenance**: Fixing things and keeping them in good condition.
3. **Supplies**: Things like food, tools, and fuel that you need to live.
4. **Harsh**: Very easy and comfortable (like a soft bed).
5. **Independent**: Needing other people to do everything for you.
6. **Cargo**: Boxes or goods carried by a ship or plane.
7. **Isolation**: Being alone or far away from other people.
8. **Fieldwork**: Working inside an office at a computer.
9. **Equipment**: The tools or machines you need for a job.
10. **Adventure**: An exciting and unusual experience.



Listening - Would you like to work on the ice?

Listen and answer the following:

- List at least **three jobs** mentioned that are needed at the station.
- List **three advantages** of working there.
- List **three disadvantages** or problems mentioned.



Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cn0e30d9wj9o>



Reading 1: Electrician

Job Title: Electrician - Maintenance (British Antarctic Survey)

Summary: Do you want to work in a place with no trees and lots of ice? We need electricians to help us in Antarctica. You will work for 6 months or 18 months. Your job is to fix the lights, the power, and the heaters.

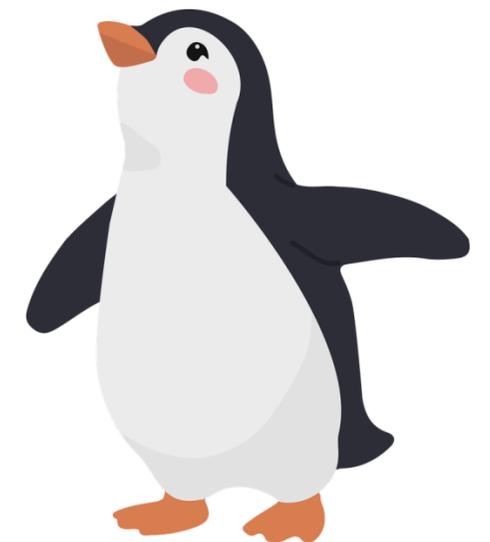
In Antarctica, you must be good at fixing things alone. There are no hardware stores! You need to be a friendly person because you live in a small group. You must have an official certificate to show you are a trained electrician. You also need a medical test to show you are healthy. It is a busy job, but it is very exciting!

Source : <https://fa-evzn-saasfaukgovprod1.fa.ocs.oraclecloud.com/hcmUI/CandidateExperience/en/sites/UKRI-Careers/job/1880>



Reading 1: Comprehension Check

1. How long is the work contract?
2. What are two things the electrician fixes?
3. Why is it important to fix things "alone"?
4. Do you need to be a friendly person or a quiet person?
5. What kind of test do you need before you go?





Reading 2: The Seal Assistant

Job Title: Seal Assistant (Bird Island)

Summary: This job is for people who love animals. You will live on Bird Island for 20 months. This is a small island with thousands of seals and penguins. Your main job is to watch the animals and write down information about them. You will also weigh the baby seals.

The work is outdoors. It rains and snows a lot, so you must like the cold! You must be very organized with your notes. In the winter, only a few people stay on the island. This means everyone must help with the "house work," like cooking and cleaning the kitchen. If you love nature and peace, this is the perfect job for you.



Reading 2: Comprehension Check

1. How many months is this job?
2. What animals live on Bird Island?
3. What do you do with the baby seals?
4. Is the work usually inside or outside?
5. Who does the cooking in the winter?





Reading 3: The General Assistant

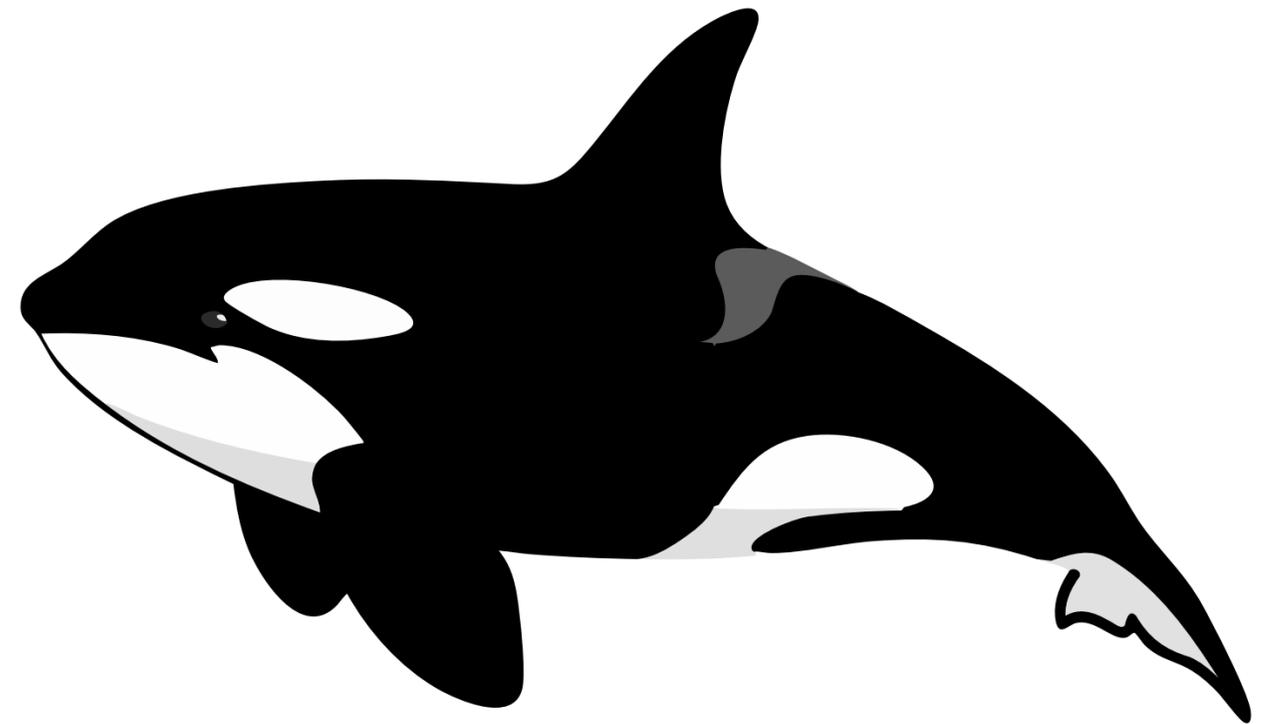
Job Title: Station General Assistant

Summary: You don't need to be a scientist or an engineer for this job. The General Assistant helps everyone at the station. You will move heavy boxes (cargo), clean the work areas, and help scientists carry their equipment. You might also help move small boats or tidy the snow.

This is a physical job. You need to be strong and enjoy working outside. You must be happy to do different tasks every day. One day you might be cleaning, and the next day you might be helping a pilot with a plane. It is a great job for someone who wants to see Antarctica and work in a team.

Reading 3: Comprehension Check

1. Do you need a science degree for this job?
2. Name two tasks this person does.
3. Is this job easy for your body, or is it "physical"?
4. Who does the assistant help?
5. Is the work the same every day?



Speaking 1: Discussion



1. Would you like to sleep in a room with 3 other people for a year?
2. What is the coldest weather you have ever felt?
3. If you could take only one book and one hobby to Antarctica, what would they be?
4. Do you think working with animals (seals) is easier than working with machines?
5. What do you think you would miss most about home? (Food? Family? Internet?)
6. Are you a "team player" or do you like to work alone?
7. Is it a good idea to go to Antarctica to save money?
8. Which job from the lesson sounds the most fun?



Speaking 2: Taboo



ANTARCTICA

South
Ice
Continent

WILDLIFE

Animals
Nature
Seals

MAMMALS

Seals
Whales
Animals

COMMUNITY

People
Group
Together

ELECTRICIAN

Fix
Lights
Wires

GENERATOR

electricity
power
machine

SURVIVAL

live
danger
nature

ISOLATION

Alone
Remote
Distance

RESEARCH

Science
Study
Experiment

CONTRACT

Work
Legal
Agreement

CARGO

Ship
Supplies
Delivery

SEAL

animal
ocean
flippers

TEAMWORK

team
cooperate
together

RESEARCH STATION

scientists
laboratory
Antarctica

PENGUIN

Bird
Black
White

EXPEDITION

Strong
Tough
Difficulty

EQUIPMENT

Tools
Gear
Stuff

PRIVACY

Personal
Space
Secret

SNOWSTORM

wind
snow
storm

ADVENTURE

Exciting
Trip
New

SCIENTIST

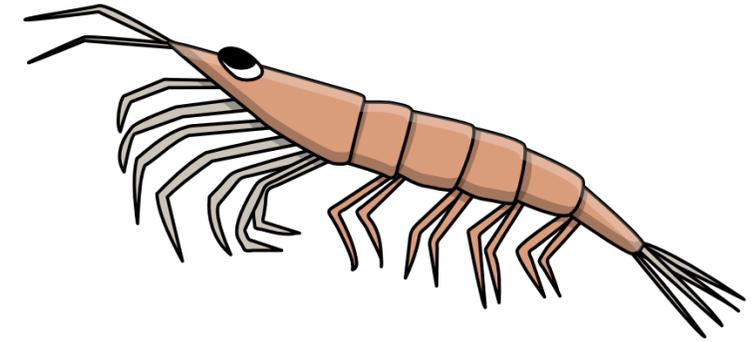
experiment
research
laboratory

Answer key



Listening Task:

1. Mechanics, carpenters, managers.
2. Adventure, wildlife, saving money.
3. Isolation, no privacy, people get angry.



Vocabulary (Truth/False):

1. False (Remote means far away).
2. True.
3. True.
4. False (Harsh means difficult/cruel).
5. False (Independent means doing things yourself).
6. True.
7. True.
8. False (Fieldwork is outside).
9. True.
10. True.

Comprehension Check (Reading 1):

1. 6 or 18 months.
2. Lights, power, heaters.
3. No hardware stores/shops.
4. Friendly.
5. Medical test.

Comprehension Check (Reading 2):

1. 20 months.
2. Seals and penguins.
3. Weigh them.
4. Outside.
5. Everyone (the staff).

Comprehension Check (Reading 3):

1. No.
2. Move boxes, clean, help scientists.
3. Physical.
4. Scientists and pilots.
5. No, it is different every day.

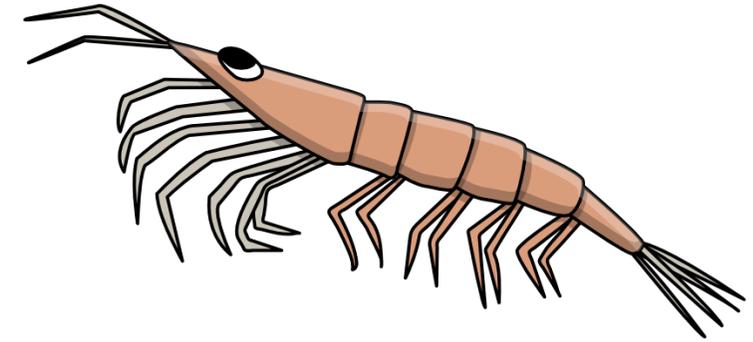
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Transcript

Do you have what it takes to spend a season in the Arctic or Antarctica? It sounds like a great adventure, but the work is not easy. Research stations need many people. They need mechanics to fix engines, carpenters to build things, and people to manage all the food and supplies.

What is life like there? First, there is the isolation. You are very far from your friends and your home. You cannot go to a shop or a cinema. Also, there is no privacy. You live in a small building with the same people every day. Sometimes, people get angry with each other because they are always together.

But there are many good things! It is a big adventure. You can see amazing animals like seals and penguins in the wild. You also save a lot of money because there are no shops to spend it in! Finally, you learn if you are a strong person. It is a great way to test yourself.



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