

5

## The Benefits of a Job

21 What are the benefits of a job? Well, of course, when most people think of a  
39 job, they think of it as a way to make money. A job can be one where a  
49 person provides a service, like car repair, painting, massage therapy,  
59 gardening, cleaning, plastic surgery, etc. Anything that other people are  
68 willing to pay you to do is a job.

78 Different jobs pay different amounts of money, depending on a person's  
90 skill level, the demand other people have for their services, and probably  
100 where they live. Different countries, states, cities, and neighborhoods pay  
112 people differently. Did you know that the minimum wage in California is  
124 nearly \$15 an hour, and in Alabama, it's around \$7?

137 People need to make enough money to pay for their regular living expenses,  
151 like rent or a house payment, car insurance and gasoline, the electric bill, the  
164 phone bill, food, medical care, and other things to keep themselves alive and  
181 healthy. It's also a good idea for a person with a job to save a little money  
195 every month for unexpected expenses, or if they get hurt or become ill for  
200 more than a few days.

215 If a person is hard-working, smart, eager to learn, honest, is a person who  
231 can get to their job on time, and is helpful, that person should not have a  
245 hard time getting a job, even one that pays pretty well. People like this  
259 should always make sure they get the best job they are eligible to do.

276 Let's say you are a person who has all of those skills. If you are, you should  
292 be looking for a job that pays well, and also has good *benefits*. But when you  
306 hear people talk about the *benefits* of a job, what are they talking about?

322 In very simple terms, if you are a high school student looking for a part-time  
337 job and you like eating ice cream, a *benefit* from working at an ice cream  
351 parlor besides the pay, would be that you could get free, or discounted ice  
352 cream.

371 If you really like cars, and like to fix up your own car as well as fix up other  
384 people's cars, you might be able to get *benefits* like free lubricants, repairs,  
399 or needed car parts much cheaper than if you had to buy them in another  
401 store yourself.

417 If you're a person who likes to travel, you might want to work for an airline  
433 where one of the *benefits* would be that you would get to travel as part of  
447 your job, and get free seats on airline flights to other destinations when you  
450 are not working.

466 If you like movies, you might want to get a job at a movie theater, where  
482 you can get free tickets to the latest movies, and maybe even a free ticket for  
496 a friend. It doesn't hurt that the manager (your boss), might give you half  
509 price on all of your popcorn and other snacks. Those are definitely benefits  
515 that people who like movies enjoy.

525 People who work in the hospitality industry, meaning hotels, vacation  
538 resorts, cruise ships, and the like get their housing costs included as a  
550 *benefit*. Most people in these jobs also get free or discounted food.

565 If a young person chooses to join a branch of the military, that recruit may  
577 be lured into signing a multi-year commitment contract with the Army,  
590 Navy, or other military division because of the *benefits* offered. Some of the  
600 *benefits* offered to military enlistees include free housing, medical care,  
610 travel, money for college, career training, and potentially retirement and  
612 Veterans *benefits*.

627 If you like animals, you might want to work at a zoo, or for a veterinarian, so  
642 that you could be around animals most of the time. If you like working with  
653 children, you might want to work in childcare, babysitting, after-school  
666 programs, or even become a teacher. If you want to help troubled children,  
679 you could work as a social worker or psychologist. Doing those things can  
693 help you feel good about what you are doing, and that you are helping  
707 others. Many people look at this as a *benefit* in itself. For many people,  
722 feeling good about the job they do is a *benefit*. Most people like going home  
737 from work with the sense of pride and that they made a difference in other  
741 people's lives each day.

756 So far, we have talked about free ice cream, cheap auto parts, or that being  
767 around animals or children can make the workday enjoyable. We have  
781 mentioned that people like to get satisfaction from the work they do and feel  
794 like they are helping others. But there are other aspects of *benefits* that  
808 everyone who is entering the job market must be aware of. And this is

821 especially important if you have other people in your family who depend on  
833 you. Many jobs offer a *benefit package*, and this package may include  
836 immediate family members.

851 If you are planning to someday be the head of a household, meaning that you  
865 have a spouse and or children, the main benefits you'll want to be looking  
875 for are comprehensive medical care, dental coverage, vision coverage, life  
886 insurance, and a retirement package. These *benefits* will help reduce the  
900 expense of going to the doctor or dentist, which can be very expensive. If  
911 your child needs an expensive medication on a regular basis, medical  
924 pharmaceutical *benefits* can help pay for those. If the job you get includes  
936 these *benefits*, it's like making extra money, not unlike getting free ice  
948 cream for free movie tickets that you don't have to pay for.

963 Let's talk about time off for the moment, as a *benefit*. Some jobs don't offer  
980 much in the way of time off, other than a day or two off each week without  
994 pay. Other jobs offer better schedules so that people can have time off to  
1009 spend with their family and do other things that they enjoy, like going to the  
1025 beach, visiting relatives, going to a theme park out of state, or a cruise in the  
1038 crystal-clear waters of the Caribbean. Most regular jobs offer two or three  
1050 weeks of paid vacation a year. Teachers, because they are following the  
1062 schedule of the school year, usually get summers off, winter break, spring  
1075 break, and major holidays. Instead of working more than three-fourths of the  
1090 days of the year in a regular job, teachers generally work only about half of  
1095 the days of the year.

1105 Police officers and firefighters in many cities have compressed schedules  
1121 where they work four days in a row with long ten hour shifts each week, but  
1127 get the other three days off.

1142 Growing in a job is another major *benefit* that many people in a career enjoy.  
1157 A career is different from a job because it is a lifelong commitment to a  
1170 particular type of work. For example, a young person who likes working on  
1187 cars can make it into a career. He or she can start off as an oil change  
1202 technician at a Jiffy-Lube, move up to a junior mechanic at a car dealership,  
1213 later become a master mechanic, and possibly end up managing the  
1216 dealership service department.

1229 A person who enjoys working in schools might start off as a teacher's  
1240 assistant, continue their college education to become a teacher, then pursue  
1252 additional degrees and become a mentor teacher or an administrator at a  
1256 school or school district.

1269 A person who enjoys helping others in the medical field may begin their  
1283 career as an orderly, moving patients from a room in a hospital to the  
1299 imaging department for an x-ray or MRI, a lab, or physical therapy as their  
1311 responsibility. Later on, this medical helper could become a nurse, then with  
1320 additional schooling, become a registered nurse. With additional education  
1333 and training, the next step might be physician's assistant, then doctor, even a  
1346 specialist in a particular medical field like OB/GYN, Orthopedist, or  
1356 Cardiologist. Beyond that, medical doctor's can also serve as administrators  
1367 of large hospitals or healthcare systems like Kaiser or Blue Cross.

1379 People who grow in their field through promotions, enjoy greater pay and  
1393 more *benefits*. They usually get more time off from work, and for many of  
1404 them, earn the opportunity to continue learning and growing, and becoming  
1415 more skilled in their career. Some companies and organizations even pay  
1426 workers for the training that makes them better at their work.

1441 Many people are self-motivated to learn more and more. If you are one of  
1454 those people, always keep your eyes and ears open, keep thinking of new  
1468 and better ways to do things, and always ask people who know more than  
1485 you to tell you about what they do and how they do it. Doing this can help  
1490 you do it someday yourself.