

ESOL Skills for Life - Speaking and Listening Level 1 - Task 1 Recording Transcripts

Part A:

When I finished my training as a primary school teacher two years ago, I was really eager to start my first job. Literally, I spent the whole of the summer waiting for September to come. I kept imagining myself working in the classroom, surrounded by lots of happy, smiling children listening to my every word. But I should have known better. I ended up in a large primary school in a very deprived part of the city. There were 30 pupils in my class, and I only had one teaching assistant, because the other one was off sick for most of the year. The children were lovely really, but they were often badly behaved, and most of them didn't do their homework so they fell behind, which made my job really difficult. But the worst thing of all was all the paperwork. Pages and pages of documents. I would finish work about 4.30, and then spend my evenings writing reports. I'm in my second year of teaching now, and it is getting a bit easier, but I'm not sure whether I am going to spend the rest of my life doing this job.

Part B:

I've spent the last 5 years working as a shop manager, and I have really enjoyed my job. But my husband and I are thinking about starting a family soon, and it will be difficult to combine working in retail with looking after small children. The shop where I work is open 7 days a week, and closes at 8 pm most days, so I sometimes don't get home until 9 in the evening. I also work different shifts every week, and do not get many holidays. I am not sure what to do next. My husband keeps saying, "why not take a career break for a few years?" But I don't see how this is going to solve the problem in the long term. Essentially, I'll still have to come back to a job with long, unsociable hours and not enough holidays... I have been considering retraining, maybe as a hairdresser or a beautician, which would allow me to be my own boss and work around my family...