

10. Benefits

10.1 People and Props

You will need: A stack of play money bills. Use Google images to print money, or purchase inexpensive play money from a toy store or teacher supply store. You'll also need two rags and spray bottles (optional).

Set up two chairs at the front of the room facing the class. Have two students come and sit in the chairs. Place a rag and spray bottle in two separate locations in the classroom. Tell the story about the students:

This is Bukumi. Right now she is at home (the chair represents home.) She has a job. She has a cleaning job. It is a full time job. (Point to the rag and spray bottle) This is her job over here.

Have Bukumi stand up and go over to the rag and spray bottle and pretend to clean. Then have her "go home". Practice the phrases "go to work" and "go home" and have Bukumi go to the appropriate place.

This is Maneno. Right now he is at home. He has a job. He has a cleaning job. It is a full time job. His job is over there.

Practice "go to work" and "go home" with the second student. Now have both students "go home" and continue the story:

On Monday, Bukumi and Maneno go to work (have students stand and "go to work"). They work 8 hours. Then they go home (have students "go home"). Here is the money Bukumi gets for Monday and here is the money Maneno gets for Monday (hand each student some play money).

On Tuesday, it's the same. They go to work. They work 8 hours. They go home (give out money). On Wednesday, it's the same. They go to work. They work 8 hours. They go home (give out money).

On Thursday, it's different. On Thursday, Bukumi gets very sick. She can't go to work. She has to stay home. Maneno also gets very sick. He can't go to work. He has to stay home. They both stay home. Bukumi gets sick pay for Thursday. Maneno doesn't get any money for Thursday. (give Bukumi money, don't give Maneno money)

Teach the class that Bukumi has a job with "benefits" and Maneno's job has "no benefits". Because Bukumi has a job with benefits, she gets sick pay when she stays home. Maneno has no benefits, so if he doesn't work, he doesn't get any money. Discuss: Which job would you like to have? Why?

Repeat the role play again with several normal working days, then a different day:

On Thursday, it's different. Thursday is a holiday. The company is closed. Nobody is working today. Bukumi stays home. Maneno stays home. Bukumi gets money for holiday pay. Maneno doesn't get any money.

Repeat the role play with other variations, such as vacation pay to go visit a family member in another state, or paid time off to take a child to a doctor's appointment. After each variation, point to the two students and have the class practice saying "benefits" and "no benefits".

10.2 Vocabulary Memory Game

Write these bullet points on the board:

Benefits

- sick pay
- holiday pay
- vacation pay
- paid time off

Explain each benefit. Have the class repeat the list in order several times. Erase one of the items (but not the bullet point next to it). Have students say the list in order again, including the erased item. Continue erasing items one at a time until the students only see four bullet points with no words. Point to each and see if the students have been able to memorize the list.

Vocabulary Summary Sheet

benefits
sick pay
holiday pay
vacation pay
paid time off

Suggestions for Higher-Level Learners

1. Explain additional job benefits such as health insurance and 401k retirement savings.
2. Look at a sample pay stub and look for evidence of benefits. Use Google Images to search "sample pay stub", or use the sample pay stub available in the appendix.