GIG ECONOMY

EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Discuss the Gig Economy. Test your Comprehension. Review and practice complex past tenses.

Activity 1 Ask and Answer with a partner.

1. In your opinion, how has the job market changed in the last 50 years?
2. Do you feel like its more difficult for young people nowadays to find work?
3. What do you feel are some of the main challenges facing young people entering into the work force today?
4. What do you think might be the long term effect of a generation of young people who cannot afford to buy their own homes?
5. Do you prefer the flexibility of short term contracts or the stability of long term employment?
6. What policies or initiatives can you think of to improve the job market here in France
7. What do you think of the idea of a "universal income"?



Activity 2- READING COMPREHENSION

What is the gig economy?

A gig economy is an environment in which temporary positions are common and organizations contract with independent workers for short-term engagements.

The trend toward a gig economy has begun. A study by Intuit predicted that by 2020, 40 percent of American workers would be independent contractors. There are a number of forces behind the rise in short-term jobs. For one thing, in this digital age, the workforce is increasingly mobile and work can increasingly be done from anywhere, so that job and location are decoupled. That means that freelancers can select among temporary jobs and projects around the world, while employers can select the best individuals for specific projects from a larger pool than that available in any given area.

Digitization has also contributed directly to a decrease in jobs as software replaces some types of work and means that others take much less time. Other influences include financial pressures on businesses leading to further staff reductions and the entrance of the Milennial generation into the workforce. The current reality is that people tend to change jobs several times throughout their working lives; the gig economy can be seen as an evolution of that trend.

In a gig economy, businesses save resources in terms of benefits, office space and training. They also have the ability to contract with experts for specific projects who might be too high-priced to maintain on staff. From the perspective

of the freelancer, a gig economy can improve work-life balance over what is possible in most jobs. Ideally, the model is powered by independent workers selecting jobs that they're interested in, rather than one in which people are forced into a position where, unable to attain employment, they pick up whatever temporary gigs they can land.

The gig economy is part of a shifting cultural and business environment that also includes the sharing economy, the gift economy and the barter economy.

Questions 1-

1. What is gig economy?
2. What factors have led to a gig economy?
3. According to the article, what is the current reality for most workers?
4. What are some of the advantages of the gig economy?
5. Ideally, what would happen?
6. Do you think that the development towards a gig economy is a good thing or bad thing for i) employees, ii) employers

Activity 3 - Listening Comprehensions:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKtuBedlMG0

1. Why is it a brave new world for workers?
2. What is wrong with most of the jobs that have been created for the young?
3. In what continent in particular has there been a "boom" in short term contracts
4. What is the downside of the "gig economy" according to the interviewee?
5. What is the upside?
6. What is the definition for a "micro-entrepreneur"?
7. According to the interviewer, what "clearly comes out" of this talk?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxuvN55ozYM

1. What was the recipe for success in the American economy?
2. What's the first thing you need to do?
3. What's the second skill?
4. Whats the third skill?
5. Why is it important to think like a social scientist/
6. Why is it important to move a city?



Activity 4 - **The search for perfection** - Differentiating between the different perfect tenses in English.

In English whenever you see a "perfect" tense, this means a tense which uses the verb "to have" as an auxiliary verb. There are 4 perfect tenses which we use in the past tense. These are:

1. **Present perfect** (this tense is called the "present" perfect because the verb "to have" is used in its present form)-

There are main uses of this tense:

- To talk about a something which occurred at **unspecified** time before now. E.G. I have seen the Harry Potter movies- this sentence indicates that I have watched the movies but it doesn't tell you when I have watched them.
- It can be used to talk about change over time- My English **has** really improved since I came to the French American Centre
- We use it for accomplishments- I have won a Nobel Prize
- An uncompleted action you are expecting- My boss has still not responded to my email
- N.B.- The Present Perfect CAN NEVER be used with a specific time i.e. yesterday, today, two weeks ago.

2. **Past Perfect-** I **had** washed the dishes before I cooked dinner

Main uses:

- An action completed before something in the past- I had studied English before I moved to New York. My wife had never been to the theatre before I took her last week.
- N.B.- Specific times CAN be used with the Past Perfect.
- Source of confusion- Often you will notice that you might see a sentence in which you could use either the Past Perfect or the Present Simple:

He had visited Paris when he was a child in 2005 and when he was older in 2017.

He visited Paris when he was a child in 2005 and when he was older in 2017.

In this case, because the actions occurred at a specific time both sentences are correct and it is up to your discretion to use whichever tense you want. However, if a specific time is not given then you MUST use the Past perfect.

e.g. My son never saw the snow before he moved to Norway- X

My son **had never seen** the snow before he moved to Norway- Correct

Present perfect continuous- You have been waiting here for two hours

Main uses-



- We use this tense to show that an action started in the past and has continued until the present- I have been talking for the last hour. It is usually followed by a duration of time i.e. for five minutes, since Tuesday etc
- Recently, lately- You can also use this tense WITHOUT a duration of time. When we do this the tense means recently or lately- E.G. Recently, I have been feeling very lazy

3. **Past Perfect Continuous** - HAD BEEN+ Past Participle

Main uses-

- Duration before something in the past- We use this tense to indicate that something started in the past and continued up until another time another the past- We had been talking for over two hours before the boss arrived
- N.B.- Notice that with the Past perfect continuous the duration does not continue to the present (which it does with the Present perfect continuous). The action has stopped before something else in the past.
- Cause of something in the past- Using this tense before another action in the past is a good way to show cause and effect- e.g. The child was tired because she had been running.
- Source of confusion- When a duration of time is not included many English speakers choose to use the past continuous instead of the Past perfect continuous. This is fine but be careful because it will slightly change the meaning of the sentence

E.G. He was exhausted because he was exercising so hard- this sentence would imply that he was exercising at that exact moment

He was tired because he had been exercising so hard- this sentence implies that he was tired because he had been exercising over a period of time. It is possible he was still exercising or that he had just finished.

Non continuous Verbs - It is important to remember that in English we have certain verbs which are called "Non-Continuous" verbs. These are verbs which we never use in the continuous tenses. With these verbs we replace the continuous tense with the present or past perfect.

Examples-

She has been having her apartment for 5 years- X

She has **had** her apartment for 5 years.

Examples of non-continuous verbs- They tend to be abstract, possession or Emotion verbs

To be	To want	To own
To cost	To like	

Activity 5 - ***Practice with your partner.***

Exercise- Present perfect v Past perfect

1. When I went to the car park, I found that my car_____(to steal)
2. John_____ Paris for 4 years before he moved to Spain. (to live)
3. 3. I _____ English before I went to live in New York. (to learn)
4. The locals were amazed because they_____ a horse before. (never, to see)
5. They wouldn't let him in because he _____ membership card. (to forget)
6. They said : 'You can't come in because you _____your membership card.' (to forget)
7. _____ new film by Spike Lee? (you, to see)
8. They _____a lot of champagne by the time the party ended. (to drink)
9. They were angry because they_____ for too long. (to wait)

Exercise- Present Perfect Continuous v Past perfect continuous

1. They _____ (shout) for a few hours before their parents arrived.
2. I _____ (wait) for you for two hours
3. Stephen _____(live) in Germany since 1992
4. They _____ (eat noisily) at breakfast before they went to school
5. They_____ (play music) in the class until the teacher came back
6. I_____ (look for) my soulmate for the last two years
7. How long _____ (work) in the garden?

