

Vocabulary

<https://ello.org/english/Mixer076/T085-BigCompany.htm>

job security



In a big company you have more job security.

'Job security' means that, if you want, you can continue to do that job for many years. Look at the following examples:

1. Nursing is a career that has very good job security.
2. The job security isn't so good in a small business because many small businesses fail.

stressful



I had to work under the president which was quite stressful.

If something is 'stressful,' it means that it is very hard and there is a lot of pressure on you to do well. See two more sample sentences below:

1. Speaking in front of a lot of people can be extremely stressful.
2. I had to take some time off of work because I was totally stressed.

prefer



In general I prefer working for small companies.

'Prefer' refers to liking something more than something else. See the examples below:

1. Which would you prefer, red wine or white wine?
2. I prefer to exercise early in the morning – at night, I'm too tired.

get lost in the shuffle



I think if you work for a big company often you get lost in the shuffle.

When you 'get lost in the shuffle' it means that you can disappear into a crowd of people because you don't stand out. It can also refer to something that is misplaced because of every day actions. Here are two more examples:

1. I was never very popular at school because I am very average and I think I just got lost in the shuffle.
2. I'd much rather live in a small city where everyone knows you and you don't get lost in the shuffle.

become just a number



You become just a number rather than a real person.

'Becoming just a number' means that other people don't know what you are like as a person. If you work for a big company, the boss and other employees may not know you at all because there are just too many people. Notice the following:

1. As far as the government is concerned, I am just a tax-paying number.
2. If you work for a small company, you never turn into just a number.

Vocabulary Quiz

job security • stressful • prefer
the shuffle • a number

1. Would you like to go a school where everyone knows you or one where you are just ____.
2. Teachers and doctors have good ____.
3. I just moved, so many of my things got lost in ____.
4. This time of year is always really ____ because there are a lot of exams.
5. I definitely ____ spicy food.

Big or Small Company

Several people ponder working for a big or small company.

Chris / England



I suppose there are advantages to both, working for a small company, you might have more space and more time to work on projects that you're interested in, but a big company, I suppose, you might think, you have more **job security**, so on balance I think I'd prefer to work for a big company, but I've worked for small companies in the past and there was a bit more freedom involved in those jobs.

Aki / Japan



Actually, I want to try working in a big company. The first job I got, it quite a small company. There were only about maybe one thousand people and my department only had about six people in it and it was quite small. I had to work under the president which was quite **stressful** so, if I work in a bigger company, I guess I don't really have to work under the president and go under all that stress.

Prae / Thailand



For now I think I would like to work for a big company because I'm really new to the working ... because I'm a newly graduate and I think it would be nice to learn all the system in the big company first.

Matthew / England



I've worked for big companies and for small companies and they all have their own problems but in general I **prefer** working for small companies.

Lori / Canada



Well, I'd rather have my own business to be honest, but if I had to choose between a big company and a small company, I think I'd prefer a small one because I think if you work for a big company often you **get lost in the shuffle** and you **become just a number** rather than a real person, so if I had to choose, I'd go with the small one.

Eoin / England



I used to think that a small company would be a much nicer environment to work in but having actually worked for a small company, now I'm much more in favor of a big companies and standard working hours and standard working conditions.

Quiz

Pick the correct words for each speaker

Chris / England

- advantages
- might
- balance
- involved

I suppose there are ___ to both, working for a small company, you might have more space and more time to work on projects that you're interested in, but a big company, I suppose, you ___ think, you have more job security, so on ___ I think I'd prefer to work for a big company, but I've worked for small companies in the past and there was a bit more freedom ___ in those jobs.

Aki / Japan

- Actually
- stress
- work under
- about six

___, I want to try working in a big company. The first job I got, it quite a small company. There were only about maybe one thousand people and my department only had ___ people in it and it was quite small. I had to work under the president which was quite stressful so, if I work in a bigger company, I guess I don't really have to ___ the president and go under all that ___.

Prae / Thailand

- think
- be nice
- graduate

For now I think I would like to work for a big company because I'm really new to the working ... because I'm a new ___ and I think it would be nice to learn all the system in the big company first.

Matthew / England

- all
- own
- prefer

I've worked for big companies and for small companies and they ___ have their ___ problems but in general I ___ working for small companies.

Lori / Canada

- honest
- Well
- because
- get lost
- rather than

___, I'd rather have my own business to be ___, but if I had to choose between a big company and a small company, I think I'd prefer a small one ___ I think if you work for a big company often you ___ in the shuffle and you become just a number ___ a real person, so if I had to choose, I'd go with the small one.

Eoin / England

- environment
- used to
- much more
- conditions

I ___ to think that a small company would be a much nicer ___ to work in but having actually worked for a small company, now I'm ___ in favor of a big companies and standard working hours and standard working ___.