

Idioms 1: The people you work with

There are a lot of informal, idiomatic and slang words that we can use to talk about different types of people who work in a company. Many of them are used in a humorous way. Some of them are *not* very complimentary, so you should be careful how you use them!

Read the descriptions of these different people, then match them with the idiomatic noun in the box at the bottom of the page that best applies to them. The first one has been done for you.

1. Alice enjoys her work, and has no grievances against her employer. = **a happy camper**
2. Brian is a brilliant young man who has quickly become very successful.
3. Clarice is an angry worker who is always spreading discontent in the office.
4. Daniel was brought in to deal with a big project, made a lot of fuss, achieved nothing and then left.
5. Elizabeth is a second-level manager who is responsible for carrying out commands and communicating messages from the top-level executives.
6. Frank works all the time, and is unhappy when he's not working.
7. Gary is new to our company, but he didn't need to be trained for the job as he was already experienced in his line of work.
8. Harriet is a junior executive who assists a senior executive, and is always following him around the building.
9. Ian is rich and successful because of all the hard work he has done.
10. Janine often moves from one job to another because she has skills that a lot of companies value.
11. Kevin is obsessed with the Internet, and spends all his time on the computer.
12. Louise is an influential and dynamic woman who makes things happen.
13. Martin always agrees with everything his boss says.
14. Nora secretly has a second job which she goes to in the evening, and which pays cash.
15. Oliver does a large variety of small jobs in the office.
16. Penelope always appears to have an endless supply of good ideas.
17. Richard is a senior executive who performs extremely well.
18. Sally left the company last year, but returned to work for us again last month.
19. Tom is an executive who dresses well and follows procedure, but doesn't actually contribute much to the company.
20. Ursula is a lazy employee who tries to get away with doing the least possible amount of work.
21. Vic is very knowledgeable about technology and mathematics, but is not very good at relating to people.
22. Wendy always follows her instincts when responding to a question rather than considering it rationally.

<p>a boomerang worker • a digthead • an empty suit • a free worker a goldbricker • a happy camper • a heavy hitter • a hip shooter • an idea hamster a Man Friday • a moonlighter • a mover and shaker • a nethead • a pilot fish a plug-and-play employee • a seagull manager • a self-made man • a spear carrier a toxic employee • a whizz-kid • a workaholic • a yes-man</p>

All of the words and expressions in this box can be found in the *Bloomsbury Dictionary of Human Resources and Personnel Management*.



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Narrative tenses • Time expressions
• Film, theatre, books • Phrasal verbs – type 1 • Diphthongs

News and views

Narrative tenses

1 Which narrative tense?

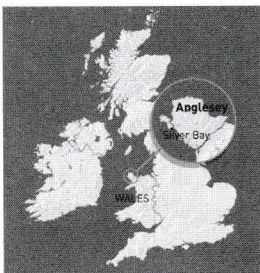
Complete the article with the verbs in the box. Use each verb once only.

Past Simple		Past Continuous	Past Perfect Simple	Past Perfect Continuous
saved	made	was drowning	had been	had been bodyboarding
hovered	was airlifted	was struggling	had arrived	
came through	was lowered	was piloting	had seen	
swept	were		had managed	
swam				

Prince William saves drowning girl

A heroic rescue

It has emerged that Prince William ¹ was piloting the Royal Air Force Sea King helicopter that ² _____ a teenage girl from drowning off the coast of Wales. He ³ _____ on duty for only 15 minutes when a call ⁴ _____ that a young girl ⁵ _____ in the sea. In less than a minute, the Prince and his crew ⁶ _____ at the scene.



Girls in distress!

Thirteen-year-old Tamara West ⁷ _____ when a rip tide ⁸ _____ her out to sea. From the beach, Tamara's older sister, Sharon, ⁹ _____ what had happened and ¹⁰ _____ out to save her. However, in the meantime, a surfer ¹¹ _____ to rescue Tamara, and it was now poor Sharon who ¹² _____ against the strong current and the waves.

Calm and controlled

Prince William calmly ¹³ _____ overhead in the Sea King whilst the paramedic, Master Aircrew Harry Harrison, ¹⁴ _____ to rescue the exhausted girl from the sea. The teenager ¹⁵ _____ to hospital where she ¹⁶ _____ a full recovery.

The Prince's superior officers ¹⁷ _____ full of praise for his handling of the sea rescue.

