

Working Life Sounds: The Whiff of Work

Activity Information Sheet:

**Activity:**

“The Whiff of Work”

Duration:

10-20 minutes

Resources:

1 sheet which contains 6 images.
6 sound recordings – accessed online.

Extras:

Household items that relate to working life **smells** (see the table below for a list of suggested items to trigger connections).

Activity aim:

- To guess the smell and match it with the appropriate occupation. Listen to the sound recordings, look at the images and reflect on how these make you feel, or what they remind you of.

Instructions:

1. Firstly, explain that you are going to be playing a “matching game”.
2. Give **one piece of information** at a time and offer more clues and context if needed. It is recommended that you present the information in the following order;
 - i. **Smell** – an object to smell (items you might have around your home)
 - ii. **Sight** – photos to look at (see supporting photo sheet)
 - iii. **Sound** – archive sound recordings to listen to on the webpage

For example, give the individual an object to **smell**. Can they guess what occupation this smell might relate to? Encourage them to **look** at the photos of different occupations. **Listen** to the sound recordings and try and match the voice to the smell and photo.

Topics for discussion:

- Did you go out to work or did you work at home? How would you describe your workplace?
- What smell reminds you of your working life?
- What was your favourite sound recording and why?

1. Smell	2. Image	3. Sound
Occupation: Shop assistant in a department store		
Leather handbag / shoe / belt / jacket	Window display of handbags	A woman who worked in a department store selling leather goods
Occupation: Train driver/ working on the railway industry		
Light a home fire or simply strike a match and blow it out	A steam train racing by with smoke billowing into the sky	The sound of the last GWR train – coal/ soot smell
Occupation: Factory worker		
Sewing machine/electric shaver oil or yarn from a sewing box	2 ladies threading yarn onto a machine in a factory	Hosiery factory work – oil/ yarn smell
Occupation: Hairdresser		
Bottle of shampoo or hairspray	3 ladies sitting side by side under hairdryers in a salon	Evening class to learn how to do hairdressing – perming solution
Occupation: Miner		
Coal/charcoal/ fresh horse manure or a dirty sweaty item of clothing that needs washing!	3 men loading a large bucket coal	Working down a mine including the good advice to never pick up any newspaper! – manure/ sweat/ miners 'waste'
Occupation: Landlord/ barman or barmaid		
Pint of beer or other drink	Woolpack Public House	The pub is the centre of life – Pints of beer