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zoom **in on america**

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Working Through Summer



(AP Photo)

In this issue: Summer Jobs

Zoom in on America

SOME SUMMER JOBS OF THE PAST

The idea of spending the summer holidays working has long appealed to Americans. Student budget has always been tight and earning some extra money has often been a must. High school and university students take up part-time jobs after school or on the weekends, but the best time to work is over summer vacation. A list of jobs is long and is expanding now that computer technologies and social media have been changing the world on daily basis.

In addition to money, working through the summer gives teens real on-the-job experience and helps them prepare

for their future careers. Let's take a look at some of the jobs that American students liked in the past, and further in the issue we are going to listen to some students who currently study and work.

While most parents are still supportive of the idea, many begin to feel that summer break should be the time divided between relaxing and studying for the upcoming school year. The 1980s and 1990s seem to have been the hey-day of working through summer. But students took such jobs a long time before that.



19-year-old Anne Hadley tries to decide where to file a letter on her first job--"working for Dad" in the Senate Office building in Washington, D.C., June 25, 1951. (AP Photo)

The 1951 picture above shows 19-year-old student of Sophie Newcomb College in New Orleans Anne Hadley having a summer office job in the Senate Office building in Washington. The job consisted in filing and running errands and Hadley worked in her stepfather's office.

Students were keen on finding a job that would also be fun. Amusement parks were at the top of the list for many college and high school students. In the 1960s at the Six Flags Over Texas Amusement Park in Arlington, Texas, competition for the jobs was keen, with only one out of ten applicants succeeding. The reason for the stiff competition was that many of the jobs dealt with acting. Among the acts were a Confederate drill team that put on drill shows. Students of Kilgore Junior College in Kilgore, Texas danced in a popular music revue at the Six Flags park.



More than a thousand college and high school students work at fun jobs at the Six Flags Over Texas Amusement Park in Arlington, Texas, shown May 17, 1963. (AP Photo)

Musical talents from the College played in the revue orchestra while other jobs filled by students at the park included a number of acting parts in the skits put on throughout the park, ticket takers, chefs and ride operators.

A summer job can be very different from what students study, but it can also go along the lines of the course of their studies. Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine students decided to offer a \$5 wash at an Annual Boston Common Dog Wash event to benefit the Tufts' Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association. In the photo on the back cover, Cocker Spaniel "Ziggy" does not mind giving students an opportunity to keep busy.

AT PRESENT

It might seem that the idea of a summer job is past its heyday. In the US, many students find part-time jobs **during** the academic year in order to finance their studies. There is the **work study program** which provides various office jobs on campus for students in need of financial assistance, helping them to cover their educational expenses.

Other students who don't qualify for Work Study have endless **options**, ranging from retail jobs at clothing stores, to working as a waiter or waitress in the food industry, to catering at weddings and similar events. Most students choose these jobs, since they're easily obtained and a great way to earn some extra money. There are also plenty of office jobs all over campus, and many students who don't prefer working in customer service may work at the administration level instead.

Something that has become increasingly popular for students is finding an **internship** over the summer to gain professional work experience before graduating from university. Students have interned at multinational corporations like Coca Cola and American Express, financial institutions such as banks, and even government agencies including the State Department and Air Force Civilian Forces. The opportunities are endless, and most students in America take advantage of the chance to work while still attending university.



Krista Cummings

Krista Cummings speaks of her experience of studying and working in the U.S. a couple of years ago:

Throughout my university career I've worked a variety of different part-time jobs as an American student. While studying at Colorado State University, I became the administrative assistant for the university's immigration office with the chance to work alongside dedicated and detail-oriented individuals. We maintained each international student's experience by creating class schedules, organizing each file and helping them with their English.

For several summers in a row I've also interned at the US embassy in Tel Aviv, USAID Gaza, and the U.S. Consulate General in Krakow, Poland, working for a myriad of sections in each office that ranged from Financial Management and Political Economics to Contracts Management and Public Affairs. I even spent a semester as a team member at a restaurant in Virginia, working the cashier and mastering the art of customer service in my free time while off from school. Each of these jobs provided me with rich insight into the working world and assisted to propel me forward toward my ultimate dream of working in the realm of international business once I graduate.

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Dillon Cummings, Krista's brother, shares his work experience at Colorado State University where he studies:



Dillon Cummings

I'm a student at Colorado State University. My freshman year, I worked as a paraprofessional in the school's Department of Accounting. My job had two parts. The first was managing the school's social media's, a daily job that requires being up to date with all social media trends, whether they were specific to the university, Colorado, the U.S., or the world. One example is we took pictures of accounting students doing the "dab" move, which is still a big trend among athletes, celebrities, and subsequently social media in the U.S. The second part of my job was tracking the expenses of the professors and organizing and keeping all receipts matched to expense reports. This was to make sure we were held accountable, but also prepared for any audits. For university students, there are a lot of jobs within the university, funded by the work-study program.

In a recording for *Zoom in on America* **Kevin Kareckas** talks about his work as a wedding DJ.

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My name is Kevin Kareckas. I am from the United States. I grew up in the state of Maine. I've been living and working

and teaching in Vermont for the past three years. For the last eight months I've been living in Rzeszow, where I've been teaching at the University of Rzeszow. When I am not either teaching or working in education I am usually either making music or djing weddings. So I am here today to talk to you about some of the observations I have and some of my insight into what makes a good American wedding.

The first thing that usually happens when djing a wedding is the ceremony. Ceremony is usually in the afternoon, usually after lunch, maybe between one or four o'clock in the afternoon. The ceremony can either be in a church or some people decide not to have a wedding in a church. They might have it at the actual venue that they will be eating dinner later in the day.

After the ceremony, there's usually always a cocktail hour, cocktail reception. That's when the bride and the groom and the wedding party, which is usually about eight other people, the closest friends of the bride and groom, will take pictures. They will usually do that away from the ceremony environment.

In the meantime, the wedding guests will have cocktails, they'll eat some light snacks, have some refreshments. If it is outside, there might be games to play, something to have people entertained for an hour and a half.

At that point Mr. DJ's job is to get people into the dinner setting. It's usually inside, maybe a restaurant, or inside the venue, and that's when introductions occur. That's when the bridal party, the parents of the bride and the groom, and other distinguished guests that the bride and the groom want to have introduced, come in and then the happy couple will walk in after that. Everybody claps. That's one of my favorite parts of any wedding.

After that the DJ's job is to play light music to enjoy, and to really set the mood, and to create a good environment while people enjoy their dinner. That can take anywhere

from one to two hours usually. At that point in time when dinner is over, that's when the reception starts. That's the part of the wedding that usually last about three hours and that's basically a dance party. That's when the DJ will turn up the volume of the music.

Something I do at this time is start taking requests. Some DJs don't take requests. I really like to take requests. What I mean by requests is I encourage people to come up to the DJ table and ask for specific songs. And when they ask for a song I try to play it right away so that they can dance to it.

At some point during the night the bride and the groom may choose to do a garter toss and a bouquet toss. That's when the bride and the groom toss a garter belt and the bouquet of flowers the bride carried during the ceremony to single people in the audience and sometimes, if the bride and groom want to, there'll be a dance of the people that caught that. The tradition is (it's not really a real tradition,) that the people that catch the belt and the bouquet are the next people that will get married. Of course it's just fun, it's not real.

At some point during the dance party the bride and the groom will cut the cake, photographer will take pictures, everybody will cheer. The best part of that is that everybody gets to eat some "ciastko" [Polish for "cake",] which is probably the best part of the night for people that like sugar.

Around eleven o'clock, weddings usually end. So people say their last good byes to the bride and the groom, maybe will take a few last pictures and that's when the wedding is over. So the whole thing usually takes one day, starting in the afternoon and goes into the evening. It's a lot of fun. Something I haven't done yet, but I'm motivated to do is see the differences between an American and a Polish wedding. Some of the things are similar and some of the things are different. But I really need to go to understand that.



Photos courtesy of Kevin Kareckas

WHAT STAYS WHEN THE JOB IS DONE

My first job really taught me how to organize my time and to plan ahead, because I couldn't afford to procrastinate with school assignments. The most valuable lesson, however, was learning to get along with different types of people. - Susan



Students visit Temple University's Career Center (AP Photo)

I enjoyed the delivery job the most. It gave me almost complete freedom to drive and see the entire city. I organized my route the day before, to do deliveries in one part of the city at a time. I always tried to find new routes. - John



A student works at a restaurant (AP Photo)

During the summers, I got internships working as a research assistant at the Laboratory. [...] As a high school student, I couldn't actually go in the lab or work with lasers. Instead, I learned how to use new pieces of equipment and trained other members of the group how to use them, created animated videos showing how to use the new technologies being created by the group, and ordered parts from vendors. - Eric



College students sell their goods as summer jobs (AP Photo)

The job I enjoyed the most, though, was at a neighborhood deli and convenience store called The Trolley Stop. [...] The Trolley Stop was a great place to work since I got to meet nearly everybody in the neighborhood (and know which is their favorite sandwich, newspaper or type of candy) and have lots of fun with my best friend right after our work was done. - Kate



Students work at the Information Desk (AP Photo)

When I was in high school, I worked each summer at a golf course. Golf courses in America have giant fields where people can practice hitting golf balls, and those fields are called "driving ranges." My job at the driving range was to drive a small cart with an apparatus on the front that picked up all the golf balls. Because people would practice while I was working, my golf cart had a steel cage on it to protect the driver. - Christian

I became a fry cook at a Captain D's (motto: "A Great Little Seafood Place!") fast-food franchise. I prepared and cleaned, and when not occupied in legitimate work, I engaged with other kitchen staff in acts of petty warfare with my sister and her fellow waitresses. They would put malt vinegar in our coca-cola; we would persuade them to needlessly clean paper plates collected from the trash can ("Help! We've run out!"). - Duncan

IS THERE A SUMMER WORK PROGRAM FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS?

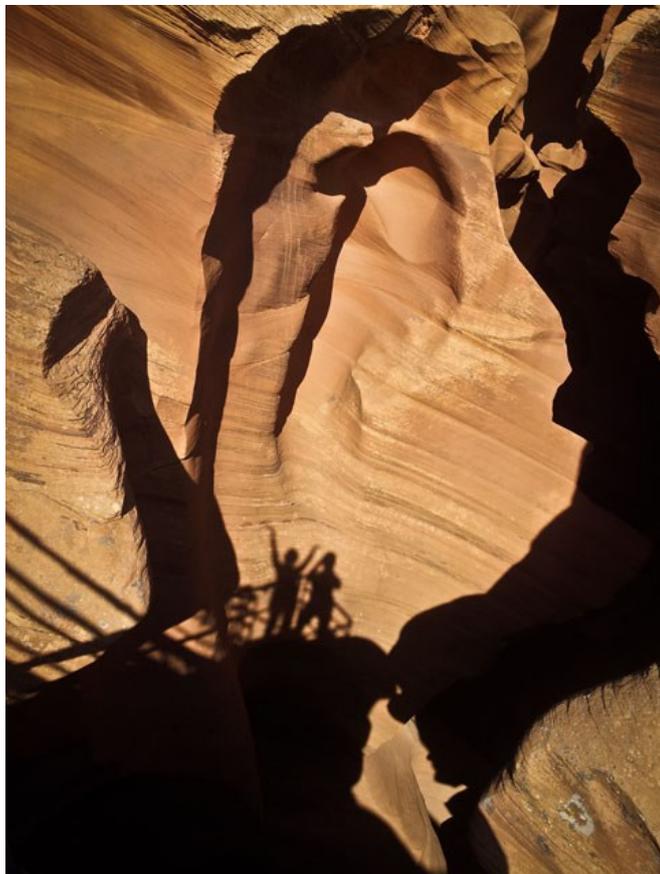
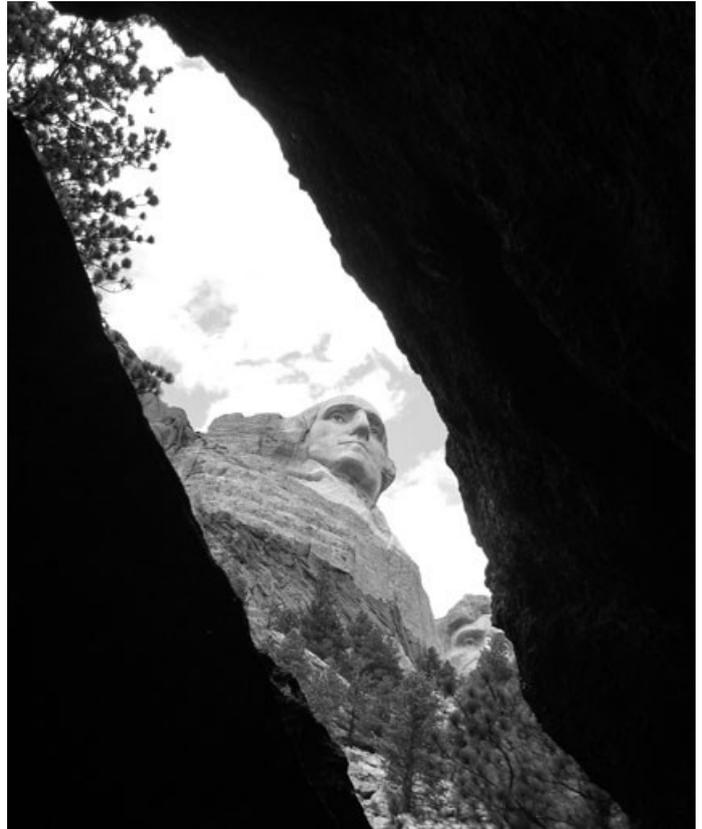
Yes. The U.S. Department of State supports Exchange Visitor Program called Summer Work Travel addressed to students who are in university or other higher educational studies. This is a short characteristics from the Summer Work Travel website:

The Summer Work Travel program provides foreign students with an opportunity to live and work in the United States during their summer vacation from college or university to experience and to be exposed to the people and way of life in the United States.

The participants of the program should be proficient in English to successfully interact in an English speaking environment, have successfully completed at least one semester or equivalent of post-secondary academic study, and be pre-placed in a job prior to entry unless from a visa waiver country.

Read about the program and its requirements here: <http://j1visa.state.gov/programs/summer-work-travel/>

See pictures of the finalists of a photographic contest organized by the U.S. Consulate General in Krakow in 2013 for Polish students who participated in a Summer Work Travel Program in the USA.



Mariusz Broniszewski's photo (above) and Jerzy Stańczak's photo (below)

Tomasz Zarod's photo (above) and Rachel Wieckowska's photo (below)

Activity Page

Exercise 1: Speaking and writing

In a group of 3-4 students, decide which of the jobs below you would like to have as your summer job. Give reasons why you would or would not like to take each of the jobs on the list. Each student should then choose only one of the jobs on the list and write a paragraph on their reasons of choosing this particular jobs. Read your paragraph to the other students and choose the best-written one.

1. Waiter/waitress
2. Office assistant
3. Actor/actress in an amusement park
4. Kitchen staff at a fast food restaurant
5. Cook
6. Lifeguard
7. Market analyst for a sales company
8. Shop assistant
9. Telephone operator
10. Babysitter
11. Pool cleaner
12. Dog walker
13. Handy person
14. Newspaper delivery person
15. Golf course caddy

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Exercise 2: Reading Comprehension

Read short quotes on p. 5 about what having a summer job can teach us or what fun it can be. Make a list of positive experiences the people below had in their summer jobs.

Ex.: Having a summer job helped me to get along with different types of people.

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(AP Photo/D.E. Hansen)