

Lesson 8: Employment Contract

By Xandra

1. Dialogue

First, repeat after your tutor. Then, practice each role.

Mr. Walker is the HR (human resource) manager at Ample Computers, while Kumiko is a new employee. Kumiko would like to ask Mr. Walker some questions about her employment contract.

Kumiko: Good morning, Mr. Walker. Can I have a minute?

Mr. Walker: Good morning, Kumiko. Have you read the employment contract yet?

Kumiko: I have, but I haven't signed it yet.

Mr. Walker: You've already started work in Ample Computers. The contract has to be signed soon.

Kumiko: Honestly, I'm not good at understanding contracts. Some of the stipulations are not clear.

Mr. Walker: Why don't you pop in to my office this afternoon so we can discuss it?

I'm **in the middle of** completing a legal document right now.

Kumiko: No problem, sir. What time should I be at your office?

Mr. Walker: Let's say 1:00PM. I'll be able to address your questions then.

Kumiko: Thank you, sir. I'll see you later.

2. Today's Phrase

First, repeat after your tutor. Then, make a few sentences using Today's phrase.

1. The CEO was **in the middle of** his speech when the lights went out.
2. Can we talk later? I'm **in the middle of** a business deal.
3. I'll be with you in a minute. I'm just **in the middle of** something important.

* **in the middle of ~** / ~の最中に、~の最中で

3. Your Task

You have been given a new employment contract to sign. The contract has no information about paid vacations and sick/emergency leave. You don't want to sign the contract unless the details are complete. Talk to your manager (= your tutor) about it.

4. Let's Talk

Are you satisfied with your current salary?

Talk about the time when you signed your first employment contract.

Are employment contracts necessary? Why or why not?

5. Today's photo

Describe the photo in your words as precisely as possible.



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