

AFARINESH IELTS Radio – Podcast 58

Describe a time you enjoyed a free day off work or school

You should say:

- When it was
- What you did
- How long the free time lasted
- And explain how you felt about it

It was about a month ago that I got up at **the crack of dawn** to embark on my daily **grind**, I mean I've got this new **gig** at a company which actually requires me to be there at 8 sharp and clock in. Anyhow, I was already behind on a physics lab so I could have used some spare time to **cram**. You know, I was sort of in luck, before I **hit the road**, my boss phoned me up only to let me know that I was **off the clock** that day as there was some **maintenance underway** at that time. Being **off the hook** was something that I'd been looking forward to for some time... Well, I got all **gussied up**, and sat in on some **biz** related powwows. What I also did was to cover the materials for school. Always being in the thick of it, I barely have enough time to eat **let alone** study well for an exam, but that day came as **a blessing**. Honestly, that day sort of got me thinking that maybe I should free up some time to get around doing stuff. Our lives have got so **hectic** that we've **lost sight** of the point of living. We think the more we actually work, the better we'll get but that's **misguided**. **I figure**, it's **mandatory** for everyone to realize how **profound** and precious life is and wasting it away doing **backbreaking grunt** work is not gonna do any good.

Language Focus

Crack of dawn

a time very early in the morning; daybreak.

"I've been up since the crack of dawn"

grind

a difficult or boring activity that needs a lot of effort:

Having to type up my handwritten work was a real grind.

The daily grind of taking care of three children was wearing her down.

Gig

a job

She's well qualified, but I think it's unlikely she will get the gig.

cram

study intensively over a short period of time just before an examination.

"lectures were called off so students could cram for the semester finals"

Hit the road

set out on a journey.

Off the clock

Most commonly it is used to mean that you currently not working. For example, if your work shift is over and you're heading home, and a customer asks you to help them, you may tell them 'Sorry, I'm off the clock, go speak to someone at the till'.

Maintenance

the process of keeping or continuing something:

The office is charged with the maintenance of customary practices and ceremonies.

maintenance noun [U] (PRESERVING)

Underway

having started and in progress; being done or carried out.

"recruitment is well under way"

Off the hook

no longer in difficulty or trouble.

"I lied to get him off the hook"

Gussied up

If someone is gussied up, they are dressed very smartly. If something is gussied up, it is made more interesting or attractive.

They all got gussied up.

Biz

a business, especially one connected with entertainment.

"the music biz"

Let alone

used to indicate that something is far less likely or suitable than something else already mentioned.

"he was incapable of leading a bowling team, let alone a country"

Blessing

a beneficial thing for which one is grateful.

"great intelligence can be a curse as well as a blessing"

Hectic

full of incessant or frantic activity.

"a hectic business schedule"

Lose sight of something

Be no longer be able to see (someone or something)

We must not lose sight of our goal.

Misguided

having or showing faulty judgement or reasoning.

"their misguided belief that they were defending the honor of their country"

One figures that

One presumes or anticipates (that); one reckons or thinks (that).

If we can maintain these increasing profits, I figure that we'll be able to open a second branch by the end of the year.

Mom figures it's time I moved out and found a place of my own to live.

Mandatory

required by law or mandate; compulsory.

"wearing helmets was made mandatory for pedal cyclists"

Profound

(of a state, quality, or emotion) very great or intense.

"profound feelings of disquiet"

Backbreaking

(of manual labor) physically demanding.

"a day's back-breaking work"

Grunt work

Grunt work is an expression used to describe thankless and menial work.

Grunt work can also refer to jobs that lack glamour and prestige or are boring and repetitive.