

Social class in Britain

Activity 1 - Which social class?

Which social class do you think these people belong to? Write the number of the statement in the correct box.

1. They own very big houses and a lot of land.
2. They go to state schools.
3. They are usually well educated and have often been to university.
4. They attend expensive public (= private) schools like Eton and Harrow.
5. They usually own their own homes.
6. They don't usually go to university but they may have qualifications in their trade.
7. Traditionally they live in rented houses or flats, often on council estates.
8. They don't usually have strong regional accents.
9. They speak in 'posh' accents.

Upper Class	Middle Class	Working Class
They usually inherit a lot of money from their parents so they don't need to work.	Professional people, like teachers, social workers, doctors and lawyers, belong to this class.	Skilled or unskilled manual workers belong to this class.

Activity 2 Listening for information

Read the sentences and think about them. Then watch the film again. Circle 'true' or 'false' while you watch the film.

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|--|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Mistajam thinks some classes will not change. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. He thinks people from lower classes can work hard and become upper class. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. His father and his wife's father both had working class jobs. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. Mistajam earns a typical working class salary. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. In some ways Mistajam and his parents are more middle class than working class. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. He thinks there are many other people like him. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

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Activity 3 – Listening for words that go together

Read the phrases carefully before you start. Which words go together?

Watch the film again. Now match the beginnings and ends of the sentences or phrases.

When you finish you can check your answers in the transcript.

Match the two sentence halves and write a – i next to the number 1 – 9.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1..... I think there's a lot of people that are
in | a. to work for that opportunity... |
| 2..... ...so where would we fit in | b. as having a particular class. |
| 3..... We both earn | c. he's a tradesman. |
| 4..... We're both in quite successful | d. working class... |
| 5..... ...our parents own | e. their own homes... |
| 6..... ... so for the pair of us, we are
traditionally | f. jobs... |
| 7..... My wife's dad is a plumber so | g. above what you would think someone
from the working class would earn. |
| 8..... ...you may not be perceived | h. to the traditional model. |
| 9..... ...if you are willing | i. our situation. |