Language and gender

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
PRE-INTERMEDIATE | A2-B1

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Match each job title with its gender-neutral equivalent.

1 chairman ____	**a** police officer
2 policeman ____	**b** firefighter
3 fireman ____	**c** server / waiter
4 waitress ____	**d** flight attendant
5 stewardess ____	**e** chairperson
6 mankind ____	**f** humanity
7 businessman ____	**g** businessperson
8 mailman ____	**h** mail carrier

2 Choose the gender-neutral term.

1 chairman / chairperson
2 policeman / police officer
3 mankind / humanity
4 waitress / server
5 stewardess / flight attendant
6 businessman / businessperson
7 mailman / mail carrier
8 fireman / firefighter

3 Complete the descriptions with gender-neutral words from the box.

businessperson | chairperson | firefighter | flight attendant | humanity | mail carrier | police officer | server

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Job A: She works as a 1 _____, delivering mail every morning.
Job B: He trained to become a 2 _____, helping people during emergencies.
Job C: She is a successful 3 _____ running her own company.
Job D: He was elected 4 _____ of the committee.
Job E: The 5 _____ took our order at the restaurant.
Job F: She works as a 6 _____, ensuring passenger safety.
Job G: He became a 7 _____ after finishing training at the academy.
Note: We say 'humankind' or 8 _____ instead of 'mankind' today.

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4 Match each old-fashioned term with its modern, inclusive alternative.

1 man-made ____	**a** workforce/staff
2 manpower ____	**b** staff the desk
3 the best man for the job ____	**c** artificial/synthetic
4 man the desk ____	**d** the best person for the job

5 Read the text. Write T (true) or F (false).

Updating job titles

The company decided to update its old job titles to be more inclusive. 'Chairman' became 'chairperson', 'salesman' became 'salesperson', and 'foreman' became 'supervisor'. Staff said the changes made everyone feel equally represented, regardless of gender. The company also updated its documents to use 'they' when referring to an unknown person's gender.

1 The company updated its job titles. T / F

2 'Chairman' stayed the same. T / F

3 'Salesman' became 'salesperson'. T / F

4 Staff disliked the changes. T / F

5 The company kept 'foreman' unchanged. T / F

6 They started using 'they' for unknown gender. T / F

6 Complete the sentences with the correct preposition (as, for, to, of).

1 She works _____ a police officer.

2 He was elected _____ chairperson.

3 They looked _____ the best person for the job.

4 This applies _____ everyone equally.

OVER TO YOU

Write a 70-90 word description of your ideal job using at least six gender-neutral job titles.

[ ] Use at least six gender-neutral terms. [ ] Use present tenses accurately. [ ] Keep the description clear and respectful.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Job title matches

1 e 2 a 3 b 4 c 5 d 6 f 7 g 8 h

2 Choose the gender-neutral term

1 chairperson 2 police officer 3 humanity 4 server 5 flight attendant 6 businessperson 7 mail carrier 8 firefighter

3 Descriptions

1 mail carrier 2 firefighter 3 businessperson 4 chairperson 5 server 6 flight attendant 7 police officer 8 humanity

4 Old-fashioned/modern matches

1 c 2 a 3 d 4 b

5 Reading

1 T
2 F - it became chairperson.
3 T
4 F - staff liked the changes.
5 F - it became supervisor.
6 T

6 Prepositions

1 as 2 as 3 for 4 to

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check clear organisation, accurate forms and respectful wording.