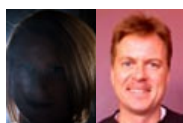




1093 The Dole

Rachel talks with Todd about 'the dole' in the UK and how people feel about it.

Todd: Hey Rachel, I heard that actually in Scotland if you don't have a job, that the government actually gives you money, like you don't have to work and you still get some money to live.



Rachel Todd

Rachel: Yeah, that's right. It's called **unemployment benefits**, or more casually it's just called the dole -- being on the dole. And you're only ... I think you're only entitled to it if you've actually been paying taxes for awhile and then you go on to something, a different kind of social welfare, but yeah.

Todd: So, if somebody's on the dole -- if somebody loses their job -- and then the government gives them money, how long can they be on the dole? Can they be on it **indefinitely**? Forever?

Rachel: I'm actually not sure. I was on the dole myself for a couple of weeks after I finished university. I know people complain about certain people in the country just never looking for work and being on the dole for years and years, but I don't think there's a lot of truth in that because when you're on the dole, you have to go to the employment office regularly for interviews and you have to show that you're looking for work, so I think maybe more of a problem is people on disability benefits. The government wants to reduce the number of people **claiming disability** because you can stay on that for years.

Todd: So for the people that are on the dole, is there like a **negative stigma** to it? Like if you tell somebody you're on the dole, do people look at you like you're a loser or something like that?



Rachel: It kind of depends on what **social class** you're coming from I think. Class is such a big thing in Britain still. I think for my parents generation, my father for example is quite middle-class and I think we would find it very shameful to be on the dole.

Todd: So, if you didn't have a job and you were on the dole, how would you feel? Would you feel funny about it, or would you feel like it was something that was coming to you for all the hard work you've done?

Rachel: I didn't feel bad about it at all. I felt like, "Yeah, this is great!" I paid taxes while I was working so it was kind of like getting the money back. It was sort a form of insurance I felt like.

Todd: So because you have the European Union, can somebody theoretically get on the dole in Scotland and then like go and move to Greece or Spain and just live on the dole in a cheaper country?

Quiz

- The Dole is available to _____.
 - a) unemployed people
 - b) taxpayers
 - c) anyone in Scotland
- She says she was on the dole _____.
 - a) years and years
 - b) for a few weeks
 - c) after university
- How do people feel about the dole?
 - a) Her father would not like it.
 - b) It helps people in need.
 - c) Older people find it shameful.
- How did Rachel feel about it?
 - a) It was great.
 - b) It was like insurance.
 - c) It was embarrassing.
- If you are on the dole, you _____.
 - a) can move to Spain or Europe.
 - b) must show up for meetings.
 - c) get discounts on food

Reset Quiz

Show Answers

Vocabulary

unemployment benefits

People without jobs can get unemployment benefits.

Unemployment benefits are ways the government helps people who do not have or can not find a job. Notice the following.

- My unemployment benefits finish at the end of the month.
- Many countries do not offer unemployment benefits.

indefinitely

Can they be on it indefinitely?

'Indefinitely' talks about a period of time with no end or deadline. Note the samples.

- If you fly in and out of the country every 90 days, you can stay indefinitely.
- The negotiations have been postponed indefinitely.



claim disability

They want to reduce the number of people claiming disability.

People who claim disability say they can't work because of poor health. Here are two examples.



- My father was injured at work. He's been receiving disability payments for the last two months.
- Some people claim disability because they are too lazy to work.

Rachel: I think that's not possible because you have to show up at the employment office *on a regular basis* so I think that would be impossible.

Todd: Oh, that's too bad because if you could, that's what I'd do.

Speaking Challenge

Answer these questions related lesson.

Q1 Do you save money on a regular basis?

A1

Q2 Do you think people can move up social classes?

A2

Q3 What things have a negative stigma in your area?

A3

Q4 Does your country have a dole or unemployment benefit?

A4

Q5 What can we do to help people who need money?

A5

negative stigma

Is there a negative stigma to being on the dole?

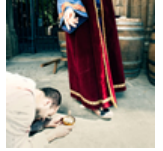


There is a 'stigma' about something when people think it is bad. Notice the following.

1. In some countries, being a single mother carries a social stigma.
2. In America, there is no longer a stigma to being divorced.

social class

It depends on your social class.

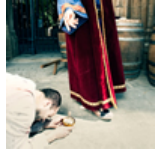


Traditionally, 'class' was defined as upper, which was rich and educated; middle, which were the workers; lower, who were the poorer and uneducated. Nowadays, those definitions are not so clear. Notice the samples.

1. In some countries, social class remains an important cultural distinction.
2. Let's be honest; these days, people with enough money can buy social class.

on a regular basis

You must show up on a regular basis.



'On a regular basis' simply means to do something often, at a set time or day. Notice the following.

1. It's good to visit the dentist on a regular basis.
2. I run a virus scan on a regular basis.

Vocabulary Quiz

unemployment • indefinitely • disability
stigma • social class

1. That store will be closed .
2. Because he hurt his back at work he gets .
3. He lost his job so he gets .
4. The of welfare is negative.
5. My country has three levels of .

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