

# Reading: Lessons 1–10

## 1 Au pair

<b>Aim</b>	To understand job advertisement and letters offering work.
<b>Preparation</b>	Copy the handouts on pages 7 and 9 – one copy per student.

### Introduction (5 minutes)

Write the word *au pair* on the board. Check students understand the word (an au pair is a young person, usually a woman, who stays with a family in a foreign country and looks after their children). Ask students to give you as many words and phrases as they can think of connected with au pairs. For example: *language classes, children, family, housework, foreign country, lonely, not much money*. Write their ideas on the board.

### Presentation (20 minutes)

**Activity A** In pairs, students read the text and answer the questions. Encourage students to use dictionaries where necessary. Check answers orally, explaining where necessary. Correct major errors.

**Activity B** Elicit/pre-teach *advertisement*. Students read the advertisements, using dictionaries where necessary. Then they complete the chart. Walk round, giving help and encouragement. Then check orally. Write new words on the board in sentences.

(continued on page 8)

### Key

- A 1 Age: 18  
Nationality: Spanish  
City: Madrid  
2 Because she wants to learn to speak good English, and also because she likes children.

	City	No. of children	Babies (under 2)	Hours work a day	Car	Pay
a	✓	3	x	6	x	£70
b	x	3	x	10	✓	£80
c	x	2	✓	5	x	£65
d	✓	2	x	6	✓	£70

(continued on page 8)



# 1 Au pair

**A** Work in pairs. Read this, then answer the questions below.

*Amaya is an eighteen-year-old Spanish girl from Madrid. She wants to work in hotels in Spain. Her English isn't very good and she knows it must be good for a hotel job. She has decided to work as an au pair for a year in England because this will help her English. She likes children (but not babies) and wants to be in a big city.*



1 Complete this information about Amaya.

Age:

Nationality:

City:

2 Why does Amaya want to work as an au pair?

**B** A family friend sends these advertisements from England. Work in pairs. Read them and complete the chart below.

a

## CENTRAL LONDON

Au pair wanted for friendly family with boy and 2 girls, 8, 13 and 14. Six hours work 5 days a week. Central London. Very good language school nearby. £70 a week.

b

## Au Pair - £80 per week

Wanted. Au pair for single working mother with three children, two, five and nine. Working hours 8.00-6.00 Monday-Friday. £80 per week. Country town. Use of car.

c

Au pair wanted for happy family with two boys aged two and six months. Five hours work a day, 3 evenings. Seaside town. £65 a week.

d

Loving family needs friendly au pair for 2 boys, 5 and 6. Six hours work 5 days a week. Own car. Near central London. £70 a week.

	City	No. of children	Babies (under 2)	Hours work a day	Car	Pay
a		3	x			£
b	x					£
c				5		£
d					✓	£70

(✓ = yes    x = no)

### Practice (25 minutes)

**Activity C** Elicit/pre-teach *to be interested in*. In pairs, students discuss the questions. Elicit answers orally and ask students to explain what is wrong with the other two families. You may want to write up the answers on the board. For example:

*Amaya is interested in advertisement a because the family is in London. There are no babies in the family. There is a good language school nearby.*

**Activity D** In pairs or small groups, the students read the letters and answer questions 1 and 2. Students use their dictionaries where necessary. Check answers orally, explaining where necessary. Correct major errors. An example answer to question 2 might be:

*The family in letter 1 do not sound very friendly. They want to leave Amaya alone at weekends! Also, they want her to speak Spanish every day, which will not be good for her English. Family 2 sound much nicer. They want to help Amaya with her English and say she will be 'one of the family'.*

Write new words on the board in sentences.

**Activity E** In pairs, students find the words in the text. **Omit if lack of time.**

**Activity F** Walk round and listen to students as they discuss this question. Listen to their mistakes and briefly go through the mistakes. Then elicit answers from each group. **Omit if lack of time.**

### Conclusion (5 minutes)

Ask the students to choose three new words they have learnt in the lesson and to write a sentence using each of them. Walk round and check the sentences. **Omit if lack of time.**

### Homework

Written answer to Activity D, question 2. Also Activity E, if not done in class.

### Key

**C** Amaya will be interested in advertisements a and d. She will be interested in advertisement a because the family is in London. They say they are friendly. There are no babies in the family and there's a good language school nearby. The hours of work are not too long and the money (£70 a week) is all right. She will be interested in family d for the same reasons. The family does not say that there is a good language school nearby but she is near the centre of London and she will have her own car. She can find a good language school. Amaya will not be interested in advertisement b because ten hours a day is too long. Also the job is in a town, not a city. She will not be interested in advertisement c because it is not in a city and the family has a small baby.

- D** 1 Letter 1/advertisement a. The writer talks about two girls.  
Letter 2/advertisement d. The writer talks about two boys.
- 2 *Possible answer:* Amaya will choose the family in letter 2. The family in letter 1 do not sound very friendly. They want to leave Amaya alone at weekends! Also, they want her to speak Spanish every day – this will not be good for her English. The family in letter 2 sound much nicer. They want to help Amaya with her English and say she will be 'one of the family'.
- E** 1 ... you will have our London house to yourself!  
2 Paul ... already loves reading ...  
3 We were very happy to hear from you.  
4 We will do our best to help you.  
5 At weekends we go away ...  
6 Here are some photographs of my husband and me and the boys.





## 1 Au pair (continued)

- C** Which advertisements do you think Amaya will be interested in? Why? What's wrong with the others?
- D** Amaya writes to two of the families and they write back to her. Work in pairs or small groups. Answer these questions.
- 1 Read the two letters and then say which advertisements (a, b, c or d) they go with.
  - 2 Which family do you think Amaya will choose? Why?

### Letter 1

Dear Amaya,

We were very happy to hear from you. We want a Spanish au pair because Anna and Laura, the eldest children, are studying Spanish at school. It will help them a lot if you can speak Spanish with them at home. We would like you to do this every day for an hour.

At weekends we go away to our house in the country, so you will have our London house to yourself! We hope we can trust you! ...

### Letter 2

Dear Amaya,

Thank you for your lovely letter. You say your English isn't very good. We will do our best to help you with it. We know that au pairs need to speak English and we'll speak a lot of English with you and make you one of the family. Here are some photographs of my husband and me and the boys. Johnny is five and talks a lot, Paul is six and already loves reading!

- E** Work in pairs. Read the letters again. Which words in the letters mean the same as these words?
- 1 You will be alone in the house.
  - 2 He likes books a lot.
  - 3 It was nice to get your letter.
  - 4 We will try to help you.
  - 5 From Friday until Sunday we go away.
  - 6 These are pictures of our family.
- F** Work in pairs. Would you like to work as an au pair? Say why/why not.