

Exercise 1: Listen to the recording. Fill in the text with a suitable word that you hear.

Gig working is becoming increasingly common in England and Wales, with almost 4.5 million people now working in the gig (1) _____. While gig working can offer workers more choice about when they work, it also has many (2) _____. Temporary workers don't have as many rights as those on (3) _____ contracts. They don't get paid when they're (4) _____, they don't receive holiday pay and they need to pay their own tax. Pay is often (5) _____ for gig workers, which means that many do multiple gig jobs at the same time, leading to very long working days.

Exercise 2:

a. Listen to a radio programme. What is the main topic?

- a. How to improve the rights of gig workers
- b. The advantages and disadvantages of gig working
- c. A new flexible working app for workers and employers

b. Listen again. Are the statements True (T) or False (F)?

- 1. Gary runs a building company.
- 2. Gary has given long-term contracts to people he's hired on Fair Gig.
- 3. Anita only started gig working this year.
- 4. Anita has been treated unfairly by some employers on Fair Gig.
- 5. Hassan doesn't think that Fair Gig has any benefits.
- 6. Hassan says that flexible workers can lose work with very little warning.

c. Listen again. Who expresses these ideas? Choose the correct people (a–c).

- 1. The Fair Gig app can help people find permanent work.
 - a. Gary
 - b. Anita
 - c. Hassan
- 2. The Fair Gig app is easy to use.
 - a. Gary
 - b. Anita
 - c. Hassan
- 3. The Fair Gig app lets you decide when you want to work.

- a. Gary
 - b. Anita
 - c. Hassan
4. The jobs available on the Fair Gig app pay more than other gig work.
- a. Gary
 - b. Anita
 - c. Hassan
5. Fair Gig is the best app of its type.
- a. Gary
 - b. Anita
 - c. Hassan
6. Fair Gig doesn't improve working conditions for gig workers.
- a. Gary
 - b. Anita
 - c. Hassan

ANSWER KEY

Exercise 1:

1-economy 2-disadvantages 3-permanent 4-sick 5-lower

Exercise 2:

2a. C

2b. 1-F 2-T 3-F 4-F 5-F 6-T

2c. 1-a 2-b 3-b 4-b 5-b 6-c

Audio script:

1.

Gig working is becoming increasingly common in England and Wales, with almost 4.5 million people now working in the gig economy. While gig working can offer workers more choice about when they work, it also has many disadvantages. Temporary workers don't have as many rights as those on permanent contracts. They don't get paid when they're sick, they don't receive holiday pay and they need to pay their own tax. Pay is often lower for gig workers, which means that many do multiple gig jobs at the same time, leading to very long working days.

2.

Presenter: Today, we're talking about Fair Gig, a new app for flexible workers which aims to improve the rights of temporary workers and help them avoid being exploited by companies. I'm joined by Gary, a business owner, as well as Anita and Hassan, who are both gig workers. First Gary, as an employer, what do you think of Fair Gig?

Gary: I run a cleaning company and I use Fair Gig when I need an extra pair of hands for a job. It's an easy way for me to hire someone – I can quickly see their experience and when they're available to work, and once they've done the job, I don't have to think about them again. I've actually also given permanent jobs to a couple of people I hired through Fair Gig so it can help gig workers find long-term work, too, if they want it.

Presenter: Thanks Gary. That's really interesting. Now Anita, what's your opinion of Fair Gig?

Anita: I think it's really good! I've been a gig worker for a few years now and I've used a lot of platforms, but Fair Gig is definitely the best.

Presenter: Why's that?

Anita: For a start, it's really easy to use – it only takes about five minutes to set up a profile. You enter when you're available so you can control when you work, unlike a lot of gig jobs where you have to be available to work when your manager tells you to, often at very short notice! It also guarantees that you'll be paid a minimum hourly rate, which is higher than a lot of gig jobs I've done in the past. I've been using Fair Gig for about two months now and I've been able to find work whenever I've needed to, and I haven't felt exploited by any of the people I've worked for.

Presenter: OK, thanks Anita. Hassan, do you agree?

Hassan: Erm, I think it has some advantages – like Anita said, it puts you in control of when you work, but I don't think it does that much to improve short-term workers' rights. We still don't get any of the benefits that permanent workers get and there is nothing to stop a company changing their mind and deciding not to hire you at the very last minute.

Presenter: So, what do you think needs to be done to improve the app?