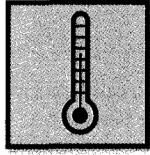


Problems at work

A Health and safety

Here are some health and safety issues for people at work.



a temperature



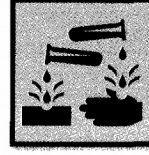
b passive smoking



c repetitive strain injury or RSI



d dangerous machinery



e hazardous substances



f fire hazards

All these things contribute to a **bad working environment**. The government sends officials called **health and safety inspectors** to make sure that factories and offices are safe places to work. They check what companies are doing about things like:



g heating and air-conditioning



h first aid



i fire precautions

B Bullying and harassment

If someone such as a manager **bullies** an employee, they use their position of power to hurt or threaten them, for example verbally. Someone who does this is a **bully**.

Sexual harassment is when an employee behaves sexually towards another in a way that they find unwelcome and unacceptable. The related verb is **harass**.

C Discrimination

If people are treated differently from others in an unfair way, they are **discriminated against**.

If a woman is unfairly treated just because she is a woman, she is a victim of **sex discrimination**. In many organizations, women complain about the **glass ceiling** that allows them to get to a particular level but no further.

If someone is treated unfairly because of their race, they are a victim of **racial discrimination** or **racism**. Offensive remarks about someone's race are **racist** and the person making them is a **racist**.

In the US, **affirmative action** is when help is given in education and employment to groups who were previously discriminated against. In Britain, affirmative action is known as **equal opportunities**.

Some companies have a **dignity at work policy** covering all the issues described in B and C.

1 Match the employees' complaints (1–6) to the health and safety issues (a–f) in A opposite.

1 *My doctor says there's something wrong with my lungs, but I've never smoked.*

4 *There's all this waste paper but there are no fire extinguishers in the building.*

2 *I do a lot of data entry, and I've started getting really bad pains in my wrists.*

5 *The containers are leaking – one day someone is going to get acid burns.*

3 *It's either too cold and we freeze, or too hot and we all fall asleep.*

6 *There are no safety guards on the machines; you could easily get your hand caught.*

2 Complete these headlines and articles with the correct form of words from B and C opposite. One expression is used twice.

1 **OFFICE MANAGER ACCUSED OF**

A court heard today how an office worker was almost driven to suicide by a bullying office manager. James Blenkinsop, 27, told how boss Nigel Kemp victimized him by shouting at him, criticizing his work in front of others, tearing up his work and telling him to do it again ...

4 **SHOP MANAGERESS IN CASE**

A clothing shop's half-Burmese manageress, 24-year-old Marion Brown, claims her boss continually made remarks, and sacked her from her £110-a-week job when she objected. She claims that the company that owns the shop has racially against her ...

2 **NATIONAL RESTAURANT CHAIN FACES CLAIMS**

Four waitresses claim they were repeatedly by male bosses in a branch of a well-known national restaurant chain. All four waitresses said they were subjected to sexist remarks at the restaurant ...

5 **..... ABOLISHED AT TEXAS LAW SCHOOL**

A court made affirmative action at the University of Texas law school illegal last year, and supporters of say it has been 'a disaster'. Last year the law school admitted a class that was 5.9 per cent black and 6.3 per cent Hispanic. This year the black percentage stands at 0.7 and the Hispanic at 2.3 ...

3 **Japanese women break through**

Naomi Tanaka, 23, last year started working on the Tokyo Stock Exchange as a trader. She complained about and said she did not want to be a 'counter lady' answering phones and serving tea at a Japanese bank. Instead she got a job as a trader at Paribas, a French firm ...

Over to you



What are the main health and safety issues in your job, or a job that you would like to do?