

## Six surprisingly well-paid jobs

### Level 3 • Advanced

#### 1 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text.

**megabucks**  
**ethical**

**liaise**  
**disposal**

**hacker**  
**confined**

**ordnance**  
**divulge**

**errand**  
**steady**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is an informal term for a very large amount of money.
2. If you \_\_\_\_\_ with another person, you talk to them and tell them what you are doing so that you can work together effectively.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ behaviour is behaviour that is morally right.
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who connects to other people's computer systems secretly and illegally so that they can find or change information.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is the process of getting rid of something.
6. Weapons, missiles and bombs are collectively known as \_\_\_\_\_.
7. A \_\_\_\_\_ space is so small that you cannot move around in it easily.
8. If you \_\_\_\_\_ information, you tell other people about it, especially if that information is supposed to be secret.
9. If you have a \_\_\_\_\_ hand, you can hold something firmly without your hand moving or shaking.
10. An \_\_\_\_\_ is a small job that involves going to collect or deliver something.

#### 2 What do you know?

Match the job titles from the text with the job descriptions. Then, check your answers in the text.

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. race engineer               | a. to find and get rid of unexploded weapons                            |
| 2. ethical hacker              | b. to help electric companies identify potential faults                 |
| 3. bomb-disposal diver         | c. to carry out duties covering a range of household needs              |
| 4. social engineer             | d. to test the security of a company's computer system                  |
| 5. power-line helicopter pilot | e. to liaise between the driver and the mechanics                       |
| 6. private butler              | f. to trick employees into giving away confidential company information |

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*If you're after megabucks, try financial services but, if you'd like a well-paid job that offers some excitement, here are six to consider.*

**Donna Ferguson**  
7 August, 2014

#### 1 Race engineer

A race engineer liaises between the driver and the mechanics.

**Typical salary:** New graduates start at £25,000 to £30,000 and quickly progress to junior engineer roles, earning more than £40,000 with just a few years' experience. Senior race engineers earn £50,000 to £90,000 and promotion often leads to six-figure salaries.

**What the job involves:** "A race engineer acts as the interpreter between the race-car mechanics and the driver," says race engineer Jamie Muir. "The engineer takes feedback from the driver, analyses the data available and makes decisions about the set-up needed for maximum performance, then relays this to the mechanics to instigate."

**Qualifications:** A university degree, typically in automotive/mechanical engineering or motorsport technology. Hands-on experience is essential.

**To succeed as a race engineer, you need ...** to be able to deal with pressure.

**Worst thing about the job:** The long hours. "Race engineers work 24/7," says Chris Aylett, CEO of the Motorsport Industry Association.

#### 2 Ethical hacker

**Typical salary:** £60,000 to £90,000 at team-leader level, while a newly qualified hacker can expect a minimum salary of £35,000 to £50,000.

**What the job involves:** A company will pay an ethical hacker to hack into its computer system to see how well it might stand up to a real attack.

**Qualifications:** You don't necessarily need a degree in computer science. The industry accepts individuals with a very wide range of academic qualifications and skills.

**To succeed as an ethical hacker, you need ...** a passion for technology and detail. You should also have a very good analytical mind and enjoy solving difficult problems.

**Worst thing about the job:** When you are called in to test the security of a new customer's network only to discover that they have already been the victim of a data breach.

#### 3 Bomb-disposal diver

**Typical salary:** In the private sector, you can earn up to £100,000 working just two months out of every three.

**What the job involves:** Descending to the sea bed and searching for unexploded ordnance (bombs, shells, grenades and landmines), then either safely recovering and collecting the weapons or securely disposing of them.

**Qualifications:** To dive offshore, you must have diving-inspection and medical-technician qualifications. To be able to dispose of the bombs safely, you'll also need an explosive ordnance disposal qualification and years of experience.

**To succeed as a bomb-disposal diver, you need ...** to stay calm in stressful situations. You work on your own at depth, with nil visibility and, if you don't like living in small confined spaces with lots of other people, forget it.

**Worst thing about the job:** Expect to be away from home at least six months of the year.

#### 4 Social engineer

**Typical salary:** Between £50,000 and £80,000, on average. Graduates start on £25,000 but salaries increase rapidly with qualifications and experience.

**The job:** A social engineer is paid by a company to try to trick its employees into divulging confidential information that allows the engineer to access sensitive company data or the company's computer network.

**Qualifications:** Typically, social engineers have a degree in IT, although an understanding of psychology is useful, as is a background in marketing, teaching and customer service.

**To succeed as a social engineer, you need ...** the confidence to lie convincingly and the ability to fit in almost anywhere without looking too out of place. You also need a strong sense of personal ethics and an understanding of the law.

**Worst thing about the job:** Other people may misunderstand your job: social engineers are not spies but most people think they are.

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#### 5 Power-line helicopter pilot

**Typical salary:** £65,000

**The job:** To fly close to high-voltage power lines in a helicopter so that the lines can be inspected with a camera and any potential faults and issues can be identified by the power company.

**Qualifications:** A private-helicopter-pilot licence, a commercial pilot's licence and around 2,000 hours of experience flying at low levels in the type of helicopter the company usually uses.

**To succeed as a power-line helicopter pilot, you need ...** a steady hand and a cool head.

Typically, pilots must fly beside the power line, sometimes as little as 20 feet away and just 30 feet off the ground.

**Worst thing about the job:** "There are no negatives," says Robin Tutchter, chief helicopter pilot for Western Power Distribution overhead-power network.

#### 6 Private butler

**Typical salary:** £60,000 to £90,000

**The job:** A private butler can be called on by his or her employer to do anything from wardrobe management to chauffeuring and pet care.

Typical duties include managing other staff, serving at every meal, running errands, looking after guests, booking restaurants, house security, housekeeping, cooking and anything else the household needs.

**Qualifications:** You don't need any specific qualifications but can do a course at the British Butler Academy or the British Butler Institute.

**To succeed as a butler, you need ...** the mindset of someone who genuinely thrives on looking after others.

**Worst thing about the job:** Long hours and an unpredictable work schedule mean it's difficult to have a family life. Butlers also suffer from isolation, cultural differences with their employer and "having to work for people who aren't always nice", says Sara Vestin, director of the British Butler Academy.

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### 3 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer according to the text.

- What is the worst thing about being a race engineer?
  - You have to deal with a lot of pressure.
  - You have to work long hours.
  - You have to analyse a lot of data.
- What is the worst thing about being a private butler?
  - You have to serve at every meal.
  - You have to enjoy looking after other people.
  - You have to work long hours so it is difficult to have a family life.
- Which is the only job that has no negative aspects to it, according to the text?
  - ethical hacker
  - social engineer
  - power-line helicopter pilot
- What kind of person do you need to be in order to succeed as a bomb-disposal diver?
  - calm
  - claustrophobic
  - adventurous

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#### 4 Find the word

Find the following words and phrases in the text.

1. a verb meaning *make something start* (section 1)
2. a three-word phrase meaning *having done something rather than just read about it or watched other people do it* (section 1)
3. a three-word phrasal verb meaning *be resistant to* (section 2)
4. a two-word phrasal verb meaning *ask a person or organization that provides a service to come and deal with something* (section 2)
5. a two-word noun phrase meaning *a situation in which someone discovers information that should be kept secret* (section 2)
6. an adverb meaning *in a way that makes other people believe that something is true* (section 4)
7. a two-word phrase meaning *the ability to stay calm and behave in a reasonable way in difficult situations* (section 5)
8. a noun meaning *a way of thinking about things* (section 6)

#### 5 Verb + noun collocations

Match the verbs in the left-hand column with the nouns or noun phrases in the right-hand column.

- |               |                             |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. run        | a. potential issues         |
| 2. analyse    | b. guests                   |
| 3. divulge    | c. problems                 |
| 4. identify   | d. errands                  |
| 5. look after | e. confidential information |
| 6. solve      | f. data                     |

#### 6 Word-building

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the word in brackets at the end of each sentence.

1. You don't \_\_\_\_\_ need a degree in computer science. [NECESSARY]
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ qualified hacker can earn up to £50,000. [NEW]
3. You also need a very good \_\_\_\_\_ mind. [ANALYSIS]
4. Unexploded ordnance must be disposed of \_\_\_\_\_. [SECURE]
5. Divers often work in nil \_\_\_\_\_. [VISIBLE]
6. Butlers work long hours and have an \_\_\_\_\_ work schedule. [PREDICT]

#### 7 Discussion

Which of these jobs is the most interesting? Why? Which is the least interesting? Why?

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#### KEY

#### 1 Key words

1. megabucks
2. liaison
3. ethical
4. hacker
5. disposal
6. ordnance
7. confined
8. divulge
9. steady
10. errand

#### 2 What do you know?

1. e
2. d
3. a
4. f
5. b
6. c

#### 3 Comprehension check

1. b
2. c
3. c
4. a

#### 4 Find the word

1. instigate
2. hands-on experience
3. stand up to
4. call in
5. data breach
6. convincingly
7. cool head
8. mindset

#### 5 Verb + noun collocations

1. d
2. f
3. e
4. a
5. b
6. c

#### 6 Word-building

1. necessarily
2. newly
3. analytical
4. securely
5. visibility
6. unpredictable