

Audio script

Words in *italics* and within [.....] are those spoken by the interviewer.

Please note that filler words such as 'err' have been removed from the script but you will hear them on the recording.

- 00:00 *[What is the most interesting job you've ever had and what made it so?]* I think one of the most interesting jobs I had I have had is when I worked, when I decided to do some work at a British university. And I did some summer courses at two different universities. But one of them, the first one was at the University of Durham in the northeast of England. I did this for three summers.
- 00:30 And I think the first two summers were probably the most interesting for me because it was very, very different to teaching that I'd done before. I did this in 2012. So, by that time, I'd been teaching for nine years. So, there were lots more the way that you approached lessons was kind of more it was a kind of cross between university teaching and communicative language teaching. So, there was a bit of, you know, quite a bit of student interaction, but also you had to stand up in front of the class more.
- 01:01 The way that you prepared lessons was different. You know, it was just, I had to kind of reset all of my teaching approaches. And that was good. I learned

something new. So, it was interesting students, really nice colleagues. So that was probably one of the best jobs I had. [*What makes a job attractive to you?*] Jobs where I've kind of enjoyed myself.

01:29

I think it's probably I've always liked, you know, I've always valued my colleagues. I think having nice colleagues around you, supportive colleagues, does make for a good job. On the other hand, the current job I have is I hardly ever see my colleagues because I'm working from home. But I do like good colleagues. The other one I should say is also management.

01:59

So, if I work with good managers, then this obviously is an important relationship for me because that doesn't always work for a number of reasons. But if I do have good managers who I think are fair, reasonable, smart, and in control of the situation, then things generally go better. I guess the last one, of course, any job that you do, obviously, is payment. So, one does want to feel valued for the work they do.

02:31

[*You've mentioned you've had a few jobs in your career. What are some of the worst jobs you've ever had in your life?*] Well, I like to think that most of the kind of the bad jobs I had that were, you know, were probably at the beginning of my working career, you know, when I was still trying to find out what I wanted to do.

- 02:58 Obviously, I left university, my first stint at university in the early '90s. And then in the UK at that time, there was a recession and there wasn't that much work around, to be honest. So, I did a lot of temporary jobs. And one of the jobs I had was basically for a week of just filling envelopes. And you know I was quite proud of the fact that I lasted seven days. I had another couple of colleagues who barely lasted half a day.
- 03:27 I needed the work to put on my CV, so I did it. I mean, it was pretty dull. The other one that was really terrible was when I was at university, I worked for one of these charity cold calling companies where you rang up people and tried to get money out of them for charity. And I vowed never to give money to charities that use that service. It was really brutal. You were paid on commission and it was basically, I lasted a day, basically. It was just horrible.
- 03:58 *[What was the most horrible aspect of it?]* Just having to ring up and treating people as cash cows, really. So, I had to ring up an old lady who I found out her husband had just died. Now, the successful people would have just, you know, ignored that fact and gone for the kill, you know, got as much money as possible, but I just couldn't do it.
- 04:25 *[If you had the opportunity to turn back the clock, what career might you have followed and why?]* If I'd got into my first choice university when I was 18, I would have studied social anthropology, which is

basically investigations into other cultures. Now, for some bizarre reason, that's what I was interested in at that time. I can't really remember why.

04:54

So, God knows what kind of job I would have had if I had gone for that degree. I may not have pursued a career in social anthropology. Maybe I would have done something completely different. But who knows where that might have gone? My life would probably have been somewhat different. I might have had different opportunities come my way.