

## Interview with a Paperboy

**Hi Paul! I'm writing an article about teen jobs for my school magazine. Do you mind if I interview you?**

No, of course not. I don't mind at all. Go ahead!

**Thanks! So, Paul, can you tell me a bit about your job?**

Yeah, I'm a Paperboy – so I deliver newspapers for my local newsagent's shop to houses in my neighbourhood.

**How old are you?**

I'm 15, well nearly 16 actually. My birthday's next month.

**How long have you been a paperboy ?**

Um, about a year and a half. I was 14 when I started doing the paper round.

**Do you deliver papers every day?**

No, I just do the round at weekends. My parents don't want me to work on weekdays, and anyway, I wouldn't have the time to do the round before going to school. I'd have to get up very early, and then I'd be tired at school. (That's probably why my parents won't let me do the weekday round).

**So what time do you have to get up at the weekends to do your round?**

On Saturdays I have to be at the Newsagent's at 7 o'clock, so I get up at half past six, and on Sundays I start a bit later, at 7:30, so I get up at around seven. I'm lucky my paper shop is just down the road from where I live.

**Do you mind getting up so early?**

Yes, I do actually! I'd rather lie in, especially on Sundays; I hate the Sunday round.

**Why? What's the problem with Sundays?**

On Sundays all the papers come with supplements – you know, extra magazines, TV guides, and so on – so my bag is really heavy on Sundays. I have to put an extra saddlebag on my bike.

**So, if you don't like the Sunday round, why do you do it?**

For the money, of course! The pay is better on Sundays!

**Really? How much do you earn?**

I earn 2 pounds for my Saturday round (I have 16 customers to deliver to on that day), and on Sundays I earn 5 pounds, but the round is longer; 23 customers. And when I get home after my Sunday round, my Mum gives me a kind of brunch. I love that!

### **What's your brunch?**

You know, a mixture of breakfast and lunch! Mum gives me a cooked breakfast: fried eggs, bacon, sausages, baked beans, potato bread... The full works. Yummy!

### **How long does your round take?**

It depends on the weather. Normally, it takes me about an hour, but on wet or windy days it's longer. And if ever it snows, like it did last year, it's worse 'cos I couldn't use my bike and I had to do the round on foot!

### **Do you like this job?**

Yes, I do actually, even if I complain about getting up early. There are nonetheless some perks.

### **Perks? Like what?**

Well, at Christmas lots of the customers leave tips at the Newsagent's for their Paperboy or Girl, which is pretty cool, and we all get a bonus from the manager too. What's more, I love cycling, and my Mum and Dad have just bought me a new bike for my round, 'cos my last one was too old 'n' rusty! My new bike is really awesome... It's got lots of different gears, so it's easier to go up hills!

### **Lucky you! Well, I've got one last question for you, Paul: What qualifications or qualities would you say you need have to be a good Paperboy ?**

Qualifications?! Well, you don't need any qualifications, like GCSEs and the such like. And you don't need to be trained for this job! No previous experience is necessary! But as far as qualities are concerned, you need to be hardworking, you definitely need to be punctual (the manager tells us off if we're not on time in the mornings, because the customers hate receiving their paper late...and some don't hesitate to phone to complain if they don't have their paper to read during their breakfast!!!) Um, you also need to be physically fit and strong, as you have to do the round quite quickly while carrying a heavy bag of papers. And of course, you need to know how to ride a bike. What else? Oh yeah, you have to enjoy working outside, whatever the weather, come rain or shine!

**Well thank you for talking to me, Paul.**