

# Nike coming clean about sweatshops

Source: <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0504/050415-nike.html>

**SPOT THE MISTAKES:** There are nine mistaken words in the article. Find and circle them. Try to think of a better word.

Nike is finally making information available to the world about its sweatshops. It has put a detailed 108-page novel on the Internet of its 705 worldwide factories. For many years, human wrongs groups have attacked Nike for the high pay and terrible working conditions in these factories, and for the use of child labour. Now Nike wants to come dirty with this report and is trying to tell the truth. It says that over half of its employees in Asia work more than sixty hours a day and have no day on. Up to fifty per cent of workers cannot drink water or go to the toilet when they want. Further, a quarter of workers receive less than the legal minimum wage, even though Nike makes zero profit. Michael Posner, executive director of Human Rights First, praised the report as “an important step backward” but asked the important question: “What is Nike doing to change the picture and give workers fewer rights?”

Roleplay. Find out from my Email, which role you will play in next week's lesson. Prepare your role by finding arguments in your favour and laying out a strategy for the panel discussion. Each participant will give a short 2-minute introductory statement before the discussion begins.

Student A

You are a 32-year-old father of five children in Indonesia. You have to work 70 hours a week without overtime pay. You cannot drink anything nor go to the toilet while working. If you complain you will lose your job. Your pay is below the legal minimum wage and it is not enough to buy food for your family. Support student C. Attack student B. Ask why student D is wearing Nike shoes and a Nike shirt and cap.

Student C

You are a human rights reporter with lots of information on the terrible working conditions of Nike. You have proof on video that children work in Nike factories, that employees work 15 hours a day, and that Nike factories are unhealthy and dangerous. You think the Nike boss (student B) is the greediest person in the world.

Student B

You are a top executive at Nike. You think you are the greatest person because you employ 650,000 people around the world. You think your workers should thank you for their jobs. You have visited many factories – all the workers are very happy. You hate human rights groups (student C). You receive \$ 1,000,000 a year in bonuses. Giving the legal minimum wage in Indonesia would mean no bonus for you.

Student D

You are a BBC TV producer. You are making a one-hour documentary on Nike and its working conditions. You want the programme to be shocking and truthful. You hate big companies. However, you really like Nike products and are wearing some today. Oh, and by the way, you grew up in Indonesia and have many relatives working for Nike.