



## Building Language Skills with The Seattle Times

November 19, 2009

**Article: Job hunters find employers pickier, want do-it-all hires (back issue—A1, Wednesday, November 18, 2009)**

(You can find this article in the Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> edition of The Seattle Times, section A1)

### **Vocabulary Warm-up:**

This article uses the terms “unemployed” and “underemployed.” Discuss the difference between these two terms and think of examples for each.

### **Pre-Reading Activity:**

Before you read, look at the headline of the article and see if you can restate the meaning in a different way, using your own words. Do you think there is a better headline that could get across the same meaning or do you think the existing headline is best? Discuss this as a class before you read and brainstorm possible new headlines together.

### **During Reading:**

While you read, keep track of some of the numbers-related facts that are listed in the article. Next, create a short quiz about the article with five questions, including at least two numbers-based facts. Trade your quiz with another student and see if you can answer all of their questions.

### **Discussion:**

**With a partner, discuss the following questions:**

- Do you think it is fair for employers to require their new hires to have so many different skills? Why or why not?
- Do you think the level of unemployment in Seattle is likely to increase or decrease in the next year? Explain the reasons for your answer.

### **Activity:**

- Search the want ads (either online at [nwjobs.com](http://nwjobs.com) or in last Sunday's e-edition, page F1) for three different jobs you think you would like to have when you are older. Make a list of the qualifications and skills each job would require you to have and write a short essay for your teacher explaining what you could do to prepare yourself to apply for one of these jobs in five years.
- Think of a job you would like to interview for some day. Find a partner and work together to write five questions you think you might be asked during a job interview for this position. Take turns interviewing one another and practicing your answers.

### **Building Language Skills:**

Search The Seattle Times or e-edition archives for articles that feature people in interesting careers. Choose one of these articles and to read and learn about the job. Write a description of the job as if you were the hiring manager looking for the perfect candidate. Share these job descriptions as a class.