A Day in the Life of a Firefighter

Firefighters in the US and the UK work 24 hours and then have 48 hours off. Firefighter Jim Roberts tells us about his routine.

07:45: I arrive at the station.

8:07: The captain calls our names.

8:15: I work with a colleague like Doug. First, we check our equipment.

9:30: The fire station is our home for 24 hours. We do the housework and tidy the rooms. We clean the station, make our beds, clean the floors and showers, wash our uniforms and empty the rubbish bins. We’ve got 5 rubbish bins in the station.

10:10: We do exercises in the gym.

11:50: We get ready for lunch. I don’t cook but I go shopping with Doug. The fire station pays for the food!

12:35: We have lunch.

1:20: We do different things in the afternoon. I give first aid classes. Doug visits schools and talks about fire safety.

5:00: Doug arrives at the station and we check the equipment again. Then we prepare the dinner.

5:55: We have dinner and then we do the dishes, read or watch TV. Doug plays chess in the evening.

12:00: We go to bed and when we wake up, we go home.

This is a normal day without emergency calls, fires or accidents.

1- Read the text. (5 minutes)

2- Explain the 6 underlined words or phrases according to their meaning in the text. (7 minutes) 3 points

a- Off: ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

b- Routine: …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

c- Check: …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
d- Tidy: ......................................................................................................................................................

e- Different: ................................................................................................................................................

f- Go to bed: ................................................................................................................................................

3- Write True or False and justify from the text. (8 minutes) 6 points

a- Jim Roberts describes a day at his workplace. .......... .................................................................

b- Jim leaves home at 7:45. ................. ..............................................................................................

c- The firefighters sleep at the station all the week. .......... .................................................................

d- All the firefighters are responsible for the cleaning of the station. .......... ..............................................................

e- Not everybody has to do sports. .......... ..............................................................................................

f- They check the equipment two times a day. .......... .................................................................

4- Answer in complete sentences and in your own words. (8 minutes) 7 points

a- Is the fire station the only home of all firefighters? 2 points .................................................................

b- Do all the firefighters cook? Give examples. 2 points .................................................................

c- Have all firefighters got the same timetable and the same activities? Explain. 3 points .......... ..............................................................

5- Grammar in Context

a- Write the following hours in the British way and the American way. (10 minutes) 8 points

  07:45: ......................................................................................................................................................

  08:07: ......................................................................................................................................................

  09:30: ......................................................................................................................................................

  11:50: ......................................................................................................................................................
b- Change the following sentences into the negative form. (5 minutes) 6 points
- Jim Roberts tells us about his routine.
- I arrive at the station.
- We do the housework.
- We've got 5 rubbish bins in the station.
- We have lunch.
- This is a normal day.

C- Change the following sentences into the interrogative form. And give the 2 short answers for each question. (10 minutes) 10 points
- Firefighters work 24 hours.
  Interrogative: .................................................................
  Affirmative short answer: .................................................................
  Negative short answer: .................................................................
- Firefighters have 48 hours off.
  Interrogative: .................................................................
  Affirmative short answer: .................................................................
  Negative short answer: .................................................................
- The fire station is our home.
  Interrogative: .................................................................
  Affirmative short answer: ...................................................
  Negative short answer: ......................................................

- We’ve got 5 rubbish bins.
  Interrogative: .................................................................
  Affirmative short answer: ...................................................
  Negative short answer: ......................................................

- The fire station pays for the food.
  Interrogative: .................................................................
  Affirmative short answer: ...................................................
  Negative short answer: ......................................................