



How to describe the worst jobs

- 1 Read the following two fictional extracts that describe the job of an Arming Squire in 1427. Both extracts describe the same job but they each adopt a different tone. In pairs, discuss the differences in tone between the two extracts. How has each writer achieved their distinctive tone?

How to Support Your Knight – Arming Squire Manual (dated 1427)

The Arming Squire's responsibilities

Your overriding responsibility is to make sure that your Knight is refreshed and ready for battle. After hours of battle this will mean that you need to revive your Knight and clean his armour. Reviving your Knight involves cooking a healthy meal and providing some good wine. Cleaning the armour is a more demanding job.

It's a Hard Day's Knight (dated 1427)

Do you really want to be . . . an Arming Squire?

You need to be desperate to take on this job. You sit around for hours on end watching a battle taking place a few feet in front of you, with no armour, frightened to death that your side is going to lose and you're going to lose your head. And that's the easy side of the job. Have you ever tried to keep a Knight happy? 'I couldn't cut this bread with my double-headed axe!' 'This wine is only fit for cleaning my chain mail!'

- 2 Tony Robinson presents *The Worst Jobs in History* as a piece of information writing. However, his writing has become very popular because he has combined information writing with humour.

Choose one of the jobs described in *The Worst Jobs in History*. Imagine that you have been doing this job for about two years and that you have been asked to write a manual for new members of staff.

- Explain what the job entails.
- Explain what the most satisfying aspects of the job are, and say why.
- Explain what the worst parts of the job are, and say why.
- Provide some hints about ways to make the job as easy as possible.

You may choose to write your manual in a humorous style, like Tony Robinson and the second extract above. Alternatively you may prefer to use the more serious style of the first extract.