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Vocabulary: work 词汇: 工作

You might have heard of people who consider suing their former **employer** for having been **bullied** or made to **work overtime** without pay. But what about taking your employer to court for having given you work that is too boring?



That's exactly what Frederic Desnard, a 44-year-old Frenchman did. He claimed that his bosses at a prestigious perfume company **stripped him of** meaningful tasks in his **managerial** job and gave him duties which were so **dull** they affected his health.

Desnard told French news agency AFP: "I went into **depression**, I was ashamed to be paid to do nothing". He went on **sick leave** for seven months and was **fired** in 2014. The former employee wanted €360,000 in **compensation**.

Some people might argue that being bored should almost be part of the **job description**. Lars Fredrik Svendsen, author of 'A Philosophy of Boredom' and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Bergen, says, "Most of the words for work in various languages tend to tell that it's a really unpleasant phenomenon. The French word *travail* goes back to the *trepalium*, it was a word for a torture instrument."

So should employers really care if their **staff** are **bored to death** as long as they do their tasks? Svendsen thinks it is in their interest to have a **stimulated workforce**. The academic says, "Employees who care about what they do tend to do a better job than those who don't. It will probably be wise for employers to at least **facilitate** some **perception** of meaning at work. Let the workers feel that their work is meaningful to them."

In any case, Desnard might have **been better off** finding some meaning in his dull work as his action brought him some **notoriety** and not much else. A court in France didn't see things the same way he did and ordered Desnard to pay his former employer €1,000 for **defamation**.

## 词汇表

<b>employer</b>	雇主
<b>bullied</b>	被欺负
<b>to work overtime</b>	加班
<b>to strip somebody of something</b>	从某人那里夺走、剥夺某物
<b>managerial</b>	管理的，经营上的
<b>dull</b>	枯燥乏味的
<b>depression</b>	忧郁，抑郁
<b>sick leave</b>	病假
<b>fired</b>	被解雇
<b>compensation</b>	赔偿
<b>job description</b>	职务描述，工作职责说明
<b>staff</b>	员工
<b>bored to death</b>	百无聊赖，无聊透了
<b>stimulated</b>	热情高涨的，充满兴趣的
<b>workforce</b>	全体员工
<b>to facilitate</b>	帮助，促进
<b>perception</b>	观念，看法
<b>to be better off</b>	比现状好
<b>notoriety</b>	恶名，名声狼藉
<b>defamation</b>	诽谤，诬蔑

## 测验与练习

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What did Frederic Desnard accuse his former bosses of doing?
2. What did Desnard do before he lost his job?
3. What could be an indication that work is not necessarily fun, according to the author of 'A Philosophy of Boredom'?
4. True or false? Employees who feel their work is meaningful are better at their job.
5. Which two expressions in the text mean to take a claim to a judge or magistrate?

### 2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I feel \_\_\_\_\_ by this new project at work. I can't wait to go back to the office tomorrow and roll up my sleeves.

bored	bullied	stimulated	dull
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2. Simone is not in the office this week. She \_\_\_\_\_ and will be back after her operation.

was fired	is in court	works overtime	went on sick leave
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3. The boss is not difficult to deal with. It's just a matter of \_\_\_\_\_.

perception	defamation	meaning	boredom
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4. I was hired to supervise the workers. Performing their tasks is not \_\_\_\_\_!

compensation	in my job description	meaningful	my duties
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5. Malcolm is \_\_\_\_\_. He teaches English Literature at a college in London.

staff	a manager	an academic	an employer
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## 答案

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What did Frederic Desnard accuse his former bosses of doing?  
**Stripping him of meaningful tasks and giving him only boring work.**
2. What did Desnard do before he lost his job?  
**Frederic Desnard went on sick leave for seven months before being fired.**
3. What could be an indication that work is not necessarily fun, according to the author of 'A Philosophy of Boredom'?  
**The fact that in some languages, such as French, the root of the word 'travail' (work) comes from the name of an old instrument of torture.**
4. True or false? Employees who feel their work is meaningful are better at their job.  
**True. That's what Lars Fredrik Svendsen, author of 'A Philosophy of Boredom' and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Bergen, says.**
5. Which two expressions in the text mean to take a claim to a judge or magistrate?  
**To sue, to take to court.**

### 2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I feel **stimulated** by this new project at work. I can't wait to go back to the office tomorrow and roll up my sleeves.
2. Simone is not in the office this week. She **went on sick leave** and will be back after her operation.
3. The boss is not difficult to deal with. It's just a matter of **perception**.
4. I was hired to supervise the workers. Performing their tasks is not **in my job description!**
5. Malcolm is **an academic**. He teaches English Literature at a college in London.