

WARM UP

1 Match the words with their definitions.

- 1 gloves
- 2 goggles
- 3 ear protection
- 4 high visibility vest
- 5 safety mask
- 6 boots

- a You wear these in case you drop something heavy on your foot.
- b These are to protect your hands.
- c People can see you even in the dark with this on.
- d This helps to avoid breathing in dust.
- e You won't go deaf with this.
- f These can stop you from ruining your eyes.

GLOSSARY

- steel-toed:** *con la punta in acciaio*
- fit:** *adattarsi*
- spark:** *scintilla*
- debris:** *detriti*
- screws:** *viti*
- grip:** *presa*
- lungs:** *polmoni*
- plugs:** *tappi*

Safety: what to wear on the building site



Working on a construction site represents one of the most dangerous jobs in the building trade. It is for this reason that workers should wear the correct clothing and accessories to guarantee their own protection and safety. So, before setting out in the morning, there are a few things to remember. First of all, get a brightly coloured safety vest so that you will be seen by other workers, especially those operating machinery on the site, like tractors. Then, a pair of strong, comfortable steel-toed boots is another must, to be worn with thick comfortable socks, as these will not only help to protect your feet but will also provide warmth. Once you have got your feet sorted out, it's time to think about your head. Hard hats are usually made from a single piece of plastic and can be adjusted so that they fit well. There are various types on the market, but the important thing is that your head is well-protected. On a building site, it's normal to see sparks flying, as well as other debris like screws and nails, so safety glasses are essential to protect your eyes, and should be worn at all times. The same goes for gloves which will give you extra grip and protect your hands from corrosive liquids. Breathing in chemical fumes and other pollutants is another hazard to be avoided by wearing facial protection like dust masks, which will stop the dust getting into your lungs. Ear plugs instead, are ideal for protecting your ears from the deafening noise on most building sites. If you are expected to lift heavy weights, then it's a good idea to wear some kind of back support when lifting or bending.

Remember also that this protective clothing is not just essential for working on building sites but should be worn anywhere where working conditions may be dangerous.

READING COMPREHENSION

2 **PET** Read the text and decide if the statements below are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Working on a construction site is not a hazardous job.
- 2 You don't have to wear a safety vest on site.
- 3 Thick socks will keep your feet cosy.
- 4 Hard hats can be adjusted to suit any size of head.
- 5 By wearing gloves you can hold things better.
- 6 Protective clothing and accessories should only be worn on building sites.

T	F
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOCABULARY

3 Find the synonyms of the following words or expressions in the text.

- 1 gear _____
- 2 leaving _____
- 3 organised _____
- 4 vital _____
- 5 inhaling _____
- 6 danger _____
- 7 on the other hand _____

LISTENING

4 **6** Listen to an expert talking about the dangers of working on a construction site and complete the text with the missing information.

Construction workers are well aware of the (1) _____ that exist on their job site and anyone who has worked in this (2) _____ for any length of time will probably know or will have heard of someone who has been (3) _____ while working. (4) _____ can happen due to various reasons, such as falling from roofs or (5) _____, or being injured by onsite machinery like (6) _____ or tractors. The list of potentially dangerous situations on site is (7) _____, and unfortunately it will get longer unless safety practices are properly enforced. By (8) _____, every construction worker should be (9) _____ in the operation of machinery and in the job he or she is expected to do, and the site should be managed according to strict safety building (10) _____.

SPEAKING

5 **PET** In pairs, talk to your partner about other jobs and decide if they are more or less dangerous than working on a building site.

MORE ABOUT...

Charles Ebbett's iconic image **Lunch Atop a Skyscraper** was taken in 1932 during the construction of the GE building at New York's Rockefeller Centre. The photo shows steel workers sitting on a girder during their lunch break, dangling hundreds of feet above New York. It highlights how construction was done with safety measures that would be considered illegal by today's standards! In 2011, Michael Crompton recreated Ebbett's shot. But in his photo, taken during the construction of the Heron Tower in London, the workers are wearing high-visibility jackets and safety harnesses.

