

Researchers work out Santa Claus' salary

13th December, 2014



People have wondered for years what Santa does and how he does it for free. Researchers have now come up with an answer to these age-old questions. The insurance company insure.com has calculated a hypothetical figure of \$139,924 for Santa's efforts this year.

This is a 1.5 per cent increase on last year, which is in keeping with austerity measures suffered by most people around the world. The figure is roughly twice the amount that caregivers in the USA would receive. Researchers at insure.com created a list of the various jobs Santa performs throughout the year to create a job description. They then estimated the total time spent on each task to get the final figure for Santa's annual salary.

The researchers discovered that Santa is indeed a multi-skilled worker, who pretty much has to be a jack of all trades. Among his skills are reindeer handling, gift wrapping, chimney expert and map reader. The vast majority of his salary, however, comes from managing his toy factory. It is estimated the bearded one spends 2,912 hours a year organizing his elves and making sure toys for the world's children are of the right quality. He gets the standard \$40.09 an hour for this. His highest hourly rate is for the ten hours he spends being a sleigh pilot and delivering presents. Comparisons were made with airline pilots and researchers reckoned a sleigh pilot would earn \$62.31 an hour.

Sources: *Time.com* / *USA Today.com* / *DailyMail.co.uk*

Writing

Santa should get a very high salary for his work. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

wondered / free / insurance / hypothetical / austerity / twice / caregivers / salary / researchers / multi-skilled / reindeer / map / majority / quality / hourly rate / pilot

True / False

- People never question why or how Santa works for free. T / F
- An employment agency calculated a possible salary Santa might get. T / F
- Santa's imaginary salary was 1.5% higher this year than last. T / F
- A website asked Santa for his job description. T / F
- The article says Santa is limited in the number of skills he has. T / F
- Most of Santa's time is spent looking after the toy factory. T / F
- Santa gets just over \$40 an hour for looking after the toy factory. T / F
- Santa gets slightly over \$60 an hour for piloting his sleigh. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. wondered | a. talents |
| 2. come up with | b. correct |
| 3. hypothetical | c. thought of |
| 4. roughly | d. get |
| 5. task | e. thought about |
| 6. skills | f. gifts |
| 7. expert | g. job |
| 8. right | h. theoretical |
| 9. presents | i. specialist |
| 10. earn | j. about |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think of the idea of Santa Claus?
- Does \$140,000 sound a good salary for what Santa does?
- What do you think Santa does every day?
- When should parents tell kids the truth about Santa?
- Is a 1.5% pay rise good?
- What do you think of austerity measures?
- What do you think Santa's job description is like?
- Should Santa get paid or should he do what he does for free?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. People have wondered for years | a. measures |
| 2. come up with an answer to these | b. figure |
| 3. calculated a hypothetical | c. majority of his salary |
| 4. austerity | d. age-old questions |
| 5. the total time spent | e. of all trades |
| 6. Santa is indeed a multi- | f. rate |
| 7. be a jack | g. what Santa does |
| 8. The vast | h. pilot |
| 9. hourly | i. on each task |
| 10. sleigh | j. skilled worker |

Discussion – Student B

- What would it be like to be a jack of all trades?
- How do you think you would do at Santa's jobs?
- What do you think is the best part of Santa's job?
- What problem might Santa have with his elves in the factory?
- What do you know about the origins of Santa?
- What do you think is the hardest part of Santa's job?
- What do you think Santa thinks of Christmas?
- What questions would you like to ask Santa Claus?

Spelling

- People have downdeer for years
- rcisaenun company
- calculated a oclphtieaty figure
- teirtuasy measures
- yroluhg twice the amount
- gouhturhot the year
- gift wppagirn
- chimney erxpet
- The vast jmytiaro of his salary
- He gets the dnadsatr \$40.09 an hour
- a elhigs pilot
- dievalnegr presents

Answers – Synonym Match

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. e | 2. c | 3. h | 4. j | 5. g |
| 6. a | 7. i | 8. b | 9. f | 10. d |

Role Play

Role A – Reindeer handling

You think reindeer handling is the best of Santa's jobs. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): gift wrapping, piloting a sleigh or talking to kids.

Role B – Gift wrapping

You think gift wrapping is the best of Santa's jobs. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): reindeer handling, piloting a sleigh or talking to kids.

Role C – Piloting a sleigh

You think piloting a sleigh is the best of Santa's jobs. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): reindeer handling, gift wrapping or talking to kids.

Role D – Talking to kids

You think talking to kids is the best of Santa's jobs. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): reindeer handling, piloting a sleigh or gift wrapping.

Speaking – Santa's Tasks

Rank these with your partner. Put the most interesting at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| • reading kids mail | • talking to kids in malls |
| • chimney sweep | • reindeer handling |
| • cookie taster | • piloting a sleigh |
| • list checker | • wrapping presents |

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | F | b | F | c | T | d | F | e | F | f | T | g | T | h | T |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.