

My Job in an Apple Plant

Working in an apple plant was the worst job I ever had. First of all, the work was physically hard. For ten hours a night, I took cartons that rolled down a metal track and stacked them onto wooden skids in a tractor trailer. Each carton contained twenty-five pounds of bottled apple juice, and they came down the track almost nonstop. The second bad feature of the job was the pay. I was getting the minimum wage at that time, \$3.65 an hour, plus a quarter extra for working the night shift. I had to work over sixty hours a week to get decent take-home pay. Finally, I hated the working conditions. We were limited to two ten-minute breaks and an unpaid half hour for lunch. Most of my time was spent outside on the loading dock in near-zero-degree temperatures. I was very lonely on the job because I had no interests in common with the other truck loaders. I felt this isolation especially when the production line shut down for the night, and I spent two hours by myself cleaning the apple vats. The vats were an ugly place to be on a cold morning, and the job was a bitter one to have.

Activity-01

Point: Working in an apple plant is the worst job I ever had.

Reason 1. Work was physically hard.

- a. loaded cartons onto slides for ten hours a night.
- b. cartons contained twenty-five pounds of bottles and came down the track almost non-stop.

Reason 2. Low Pay despite long hours.

- a. Received minimum wage of \$3.65 an hour, plus a quarter extra for night shift.
- b. Hard to work over sixty hours a week for decent take-home pay.

Reason 3. Limited breaks and Unfavourable working conditions.

- a. Limited to two ten-minute breaks and unpaid lunch.
- b. spend most time on loading dock in near-zero-degree temperature.
- c. Loneliness on job
 - i. No interest in conversation with other workers.
 - ii. By myself for 2 hours cleaning the apple vats.