

Job of The Week

Sports Commentator

Key Skills

- the ability to use your initiative
- to be flexible and open to change
- knowledge of English language
- excellent verbal communication skills
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- knowledge of media production and communication
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently
- knowledge of computer operating systems, hardware and software

Salary

£13,000-£80,000

Working hours

39 – 41 a week

Variable

Evenings/ weekends
could work away from home

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Sports Commentator

Top Tips

Competition for jobs is very strong and very few jobs are advertised. Building up a network of industry contacts can help you find out about vacancies.

Post 16 Options

Although there are no specific qualifications to become a Sports Commentators, it would be useful for you to study subjects such as English, Creative Media, Sport, Business, and IT to showcase your academic capabilities.

To access a Level 3 course at college or equivalent at Sixth Form, you would need 5 GCSE's at Grade 4 or above (or equivalent) including Maths and English. There will be additional requirements for A Level subjects.

University

There is no set entry route to become a sports commentator but it may be useful to get a degree in a relevant subject like:

- journalism
- sports journalism
- sports business and broadcasting

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree

Work Experience

You'll need to have some practical experience and be able to show you have a real enthusiasm for sports commentating.

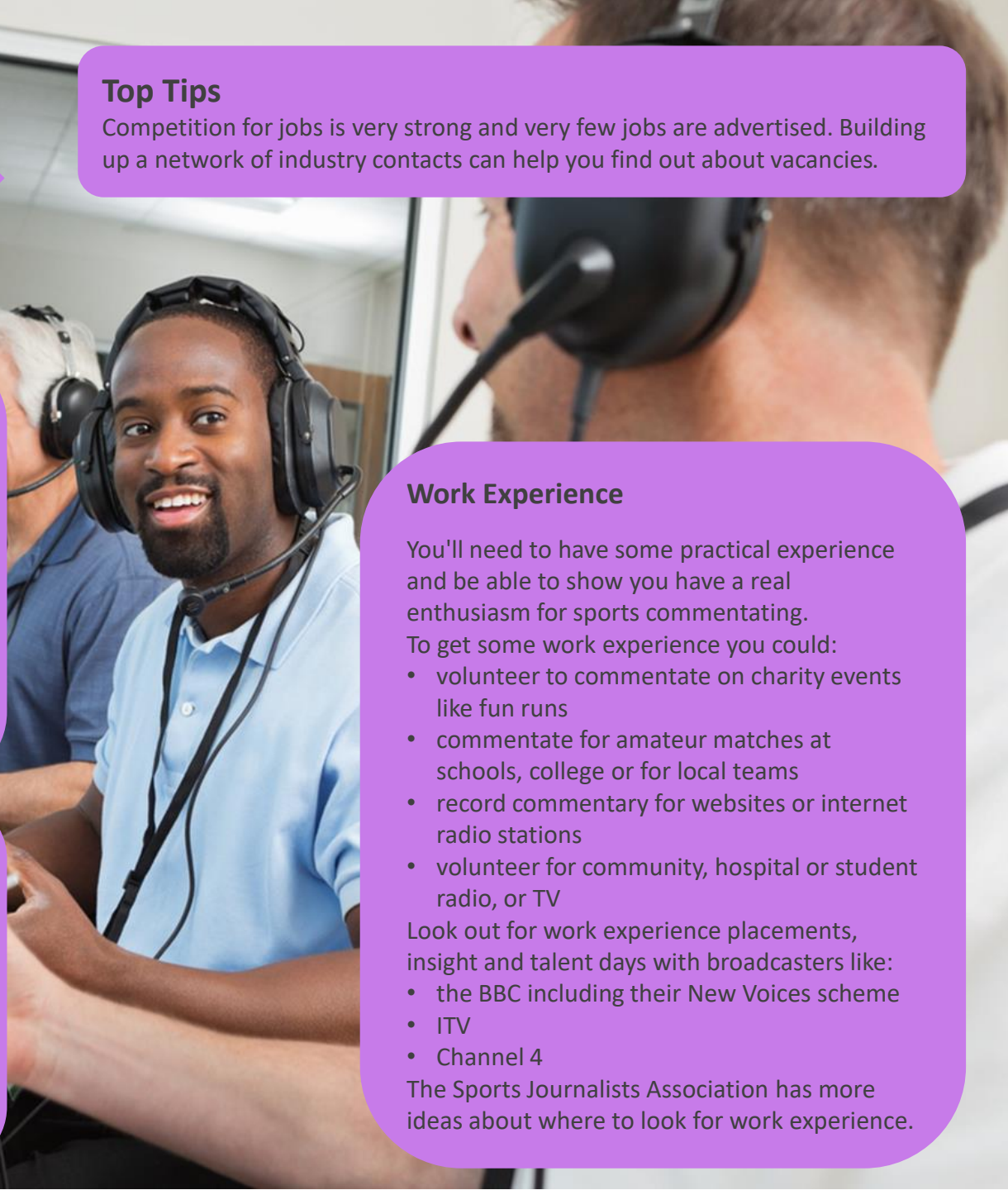
To get some work experience you could:

- volunteer to commentate on charity events like fun runs
- commentate for amateur matches at schools, college or for local teams
- record commentary for websites or internet radio stations
- volunteer for community, hospital or student radio, or TV

Look out for work experience placements, insight and talent days with broadcasters like:

- the BBC including their New Voices scheme
- ITV
- Channel 4

The Sports Journalists Association has more ideas about where to look for work experience.



Career path and progression

You could move from short-term, freelance contract work to full-time permanent work with regional, national or international broadcasters.

With experience, you could become a studio-based presenter, move into programme making and producing, management, or written sports reporting.



Day to Day tasks:

- work with a production team
- take direction from a producer
- interview sports professionals
- attend conferences, games and tournaments
- update your website, blog or social media feed
- describe events in an impartial, yet enthusiastic way
- work with experts who give their opinion or statistics
- prepare for an event by researching clubs, coaches or players
- report on the action as it takes place and give updates on the scores and highlights

Working conditions

You could work on a sports field, at a recording studio or at a sports arena.

Your working environment may be noisy, crowded, outdoors some of the time, and you'll travel often.

Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.
Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

Journalists, newspaper and periodical editors	
Weekly Pay £930	Annual Pay £48,360
Hours/Week 30h	Hourly Pay £31
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 4.3%	Replacement 55.3%
<p>The workforce is projected to grow by 4.3% over the period to 2027, creating 3,800 jobs. In the same period, 55.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 49,900 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in Advertising, etc Publishing activities Arts & entertainment Sport & recreation Film & music</p>	
More info	Clear card

Arts officers, producers and directors	
Weekly Pay £970	Annual Pay £50,440
Hours/Week 38h	Hourly Pay £26
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 0.9%	Replacement 57.9%
<p>The workforce is projected to grow by 0.9% over the period to 2027, creating 900 jobs. In the same period, 57.9% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 53,900 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in Film & music Libraries, etc Broadcasting Arts & entertainment Head offices, etc</p>	
More info	Clear card

Sports coaches, instructors and officials	
Weekly Pay £460	Annual Pay £23,920
Hours/Week 36h	Hourly Pay £13
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 0.9%	Replacement 57.9%
<p>The workforce is projected to grow by 0.9% over the period to 2027, creating 1,100 jobs. In the same period, 57.9% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 66,900 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in Sport & recreation Education Gambling Employment activities Other personal service</p>	
More info	Clear card

Labour Market Information



Sports coaches, instructors and officials

Sports coaches, instructors and officials work with amateur and professional sportsmen and women to enhance performance, encourage greater participation in sport, supervise recreational activities such as canoeing and mountaineering, and organise and officiate at sporting events according to established rules.

Common tasks in this job:

- coaches teams or individuals by demonstrating techniques and directing training and exercise sessions;
- controls team selection and discipline and recruits ancillary staff such as coaches or physiotherapists;
- monitors and analyses technique and performance, and determines how future improvements can be made;
- deals with administrative aspects such as arranging matches, contests or appearances for athlete or team, and organising required transport and accommodation;

[Back](#)

[Clear card](#)

Journalists, newspaper and periodical editors

Jobholders in this unit group investigate and write up stories and features for broadcasting and for newspapers, magazines and other periodicals, evaluate and manage their style and content and oversee the editorial direction of these types of output and publication.

Common tasks in this job:

- determines subject matter and undertakes research by interviewing, attending public events, seeking out records, reviewing written work, attending film and stage performances etc.;
- writes articles and features and submits draft manuscripts to newspaper, magazine, periodical or programme editor;
- selects material for broadcast or publication, checks style, grammar, accuracy and legality of content and arranges for any necessary revisions;
- liaises with production staff in checking final proof copies immediately prior to printing.

[Back](#)

[Clear card](#)

Arts officers, producers and directors

Arts officers, producers and directors assume creative, financial and organisational responsibilities in the production and direction of television and radio programmes, films, stage presentations, content for other media, and the promotion and exhibition of other creative activities.

Common tasks in this job:

- chooses writers, scripts, technical staff and performers, and assumes overall responsibility for completion of project on time and within budget;
- directs actors, designers, camera team, sound crew and other production and technical staff to achieve desired effects;
- breaks script into scenes and formulates a shooting schedule that will be most economical in terms of time, location and sets;
- prepares rehearsal and production schedule for main events, design of sets and costumes, technical rehearsals and dress rehearsals;

[Back](#)

[Clear card](#)

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Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Useful Websites

[ITV](#)

[Sports commentator | Explore careers | National Careers Service](#)

[BBC New Voices 2021: Do you want to be a sports commentator? - BBC Sport](#)

[Work experience and internships - Sports Journalists' Association](#)

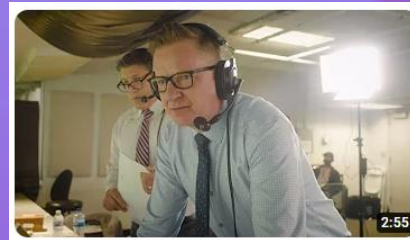
[Search – UCAS](#)

[Sports commentator - career guide and latest jobs \(sortyourfuture.com\)](#)

[Media and Journalism | Peterborough College](#)

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

A day in the Life



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RoJoCUDqM1>

Female Commentator



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gi0ilmjMHs>

Live assignment for Sports Journalism



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JP8EsBESvA>

Sports Journalism Course interview Frank Lampard



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1CJ6-63YWU>

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