

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

Work-Related Activity Group and work-related activities

jobcentreplus

Department for
Work and Pensions

WRAG Factsheet 02 08/16

What is the ESA Work-Related Activity Group?

The Work-Related Activity Group is made up of ESA claimants that we accept have limits on things they can do, including working, because of their illness, health condition or disability.

How being in the Work-Related Activity Group can help you

Being in this group means you'll be expected to do things that should help you have a better chance of moving closer to working when you're able to.

This is important because we know most people's lives are made better if they can work. So we want to help you have a better chance of getting it.

Please don't worry, it doesn't mean that you must look for or apply for work. It's all about helping you move closer to being able to work when you are capable of this at some point in the future.

What happens when you're part of the Work-Related Activity Group?

You'll have appointments with a specialist work coach who you'll either meet in the jobcentre or speak to on the phone. There's help you can get with costs, like registered childcare, registered adult care or travel costs. Please ask your work coach about this when they call you to arrange an appointment.

At the appointment, you and your work coach will talk about your needs and the things you're already able to do. There is support available to help you start thinking about the types of work you could do when you're able to.

We call the things you'll do work-related activities.

Your work coach will give you an activity plan that shows the things you need to do.

You'll have further appointments with your work coach to see how you're getting on and you might talk about some new or different activities for you to do.

What are work-related activities?

Work-related activities could be things like:	Doing work-related activities will help you:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing a diary of things you do each day to help you find out what skills you already have• Training courses you could do to learn new skills, for example going to a classroom-based IT course• Learning how to do a CV	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn new skills• Build your confidence• Understand how to use different types of public transport on different routes• Know what types of work you could do at some point in the future

Do you have to do work-related activities?

Yes. Like other people in this group, you'll have to do some work-related activities to keep getting your full ESA payment.

Work-related activities will be different for everyone. Your work coach will work with you to understand your situation and give you activities that meet your needs.

What will happen if you don't do the work-related activities shown on your activity plan?

If you can prove that you had a good reason for not doing the activity, you'll still get your full amount of ESA. But, if we decide that you didn't have a good reason, your benefit payment will be reduced. We call this a sanction. For more information about sanctions please visit www.gov.uk

What do you need to do when you're in the Work-Related Activity Group?

You need to attend and take part in the appointments your work coach arranges so that you keep getting your full ESA payment.

You don't need to contact Jobcentre Plus to set up appointments with a work coach. The work coach will get in touch with you.

You'll meet, or talk to your work coach on your own unless you want to have someone with you. If you need someone to help you at the appointment, for example a support worker, friend or relative, you can bring them with you.

What else can a work coach help you with?

Your work coach can tell you about services, training courses and information you can get that could help you get back into work when you're able. They can talk to you about managing your illness, health condition or disability in the workplace, and how Access to Work can help you. Please visit www.gov.uk for more information about Access to Work.

Your work coach can also help you with things like:

Services	Benefits you can get while you're working	College or training courses	Information about
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental health services• Domestic violence services• Drug, alcohol or homelessness services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working Tax Credit• Extended Housing Benefit payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Courses to help you get computer skills, write a CV or learn job interview skills• Work Programme / Work Choice• English language courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to find out how much better off you can be in work• Self-employment• Something we call permitted work - you can do some paid work for up to 16 hours per week and still get your full ESA payments. For more information visit www.gov.uk