

A VERY SERIOUS STUDY OF A VERY SILLY QUESTION

Which jobs does anime **actually** name?

We scanned ~22,000 anime to find every profession that gets mentioned out loud — and the ones that never do.



Doctor



Ninja



Maid



Idol



Insurance agent…?

Anime has doctors, ninjas, idols, maids... but does anyone ever say "insurance consultant"?

We wanted one complete lookup table: type in *any* job, get back how many anime mention it and what % of everything that is.

And the real headline question: **which jobs does anime never name at all?**



dentist

▼ returns ▼

94

anime

0.5%

of all titles

TL;DR One lookup table to rank every job in anime — and to catch the ones that never show up.

We're not the first to nerd out about this

PLOS ONE · 2022

Baruah, Somandepalli & Narayanan

Our template: a profession taxonomy counting job mentions in subtitles across **136,000+ IMDb titles** (1950–2017). They never broke out anime. **We did.**

[Read the paper ↗](#)

Knowledge Organization 47(1) · 2020

Cho, Disher, Lee, Keating & Lee

Showed anime's genre metadata resists clean categorisation. Translation: **anime is a taxonomy nightmare.**

[Read the paper ↗](#)

arXiv preprint

"From Pixels to Personas"

A big MyAnimeList character-design study that **gave up on cross-genre analysis** — the metadata was too incomplete. Same wall we climbed around.

[Read the paper ↗](#)

お アニメ · a whole genre

"Work anime"

Japan has a recognised genre for job-centric anime, with annual reader polls — but **zero counts or taxonomy** behind it. We put numbers on the vibe.



Lots of people study anime. Nobody had made the **office-jobs lookup table**. So we did.

How we did it



A standard job list

We started from [ISCO-08](#), the UN's list of **436 official job codes**. Most can't be said out loud in a story — nobody announces "I'm a mineral-processing-plant operator" — so a zero for those would mean nothing. We kept the **~150** a character could plausibly be named as. That's the fair test set.



Three sources, text-first

Plot summaries + character bios ([AniList](#), ~22k titles), then **128,447 Japanese subtitle files** (~8 GB) to catch jobs mentioned only in dialogue.



The two-AI trick

A fast, cheap AI (Claude Haiku) read **~101,000 sentences**: "does a character really hold this job?" A smarter AI (Claude Opus) graded ~2,000 calls like a teacher marking homework.



Fantasy jobs, separate bucket

Ninja, mage, royalty, knight... not real occupations, but too iconic to ignore. Kept apart so they don't skew the real ones.



The big limitation, stated up front

We only detect jobs that get named in words. A profession shown on screen but never labeled is invisible to us. (Hold that thought for slide 8.)

By the numbers

80,331

confirmed job mentions

the payload of the whole study

21,988

anime analysed (18,127 had enough text)

94,458

characters

13,851

franchises (Conan's ~28 films = 1)

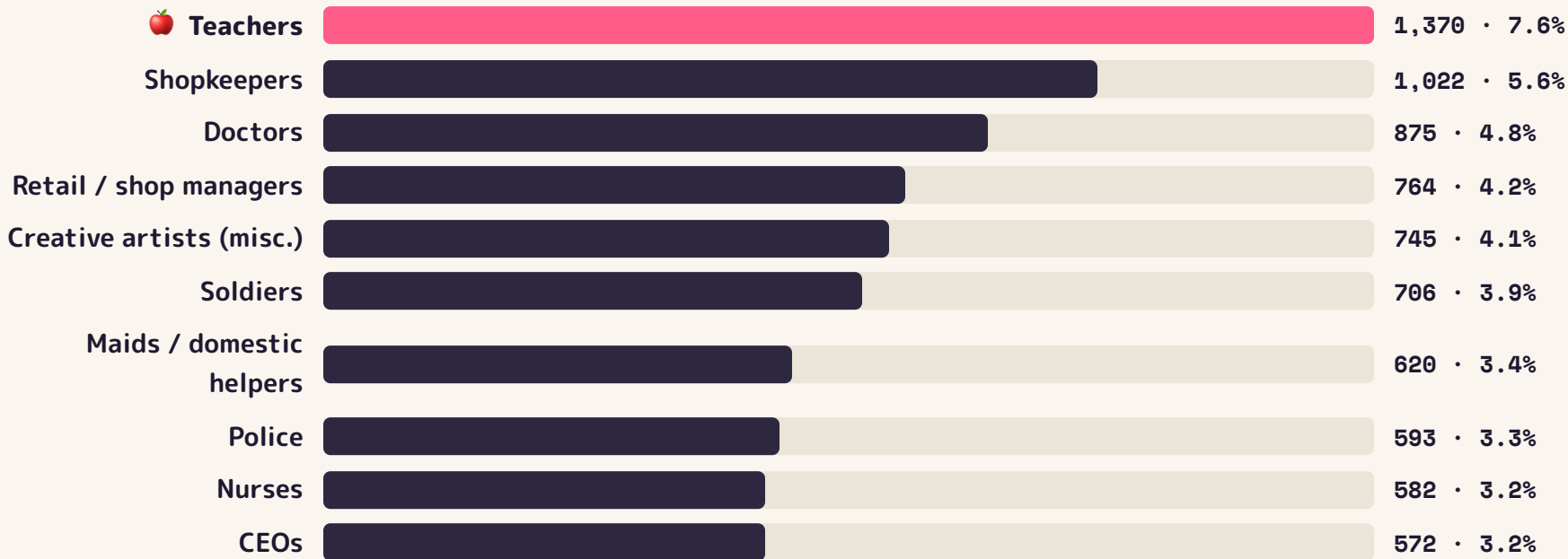
128,447

subtitle files scanned (~8 GB)

TL;DR

Big pile of anime, bigger pile of dialogue — **~101,000 AI yes/no judgments** (plus ~2,000 double-checked) turned it into countable data.

The jobs anime names the most



TL;DR Teachers win by a mile — because so much anime is literally set at school. (% of the 18,127 scannable titles.)

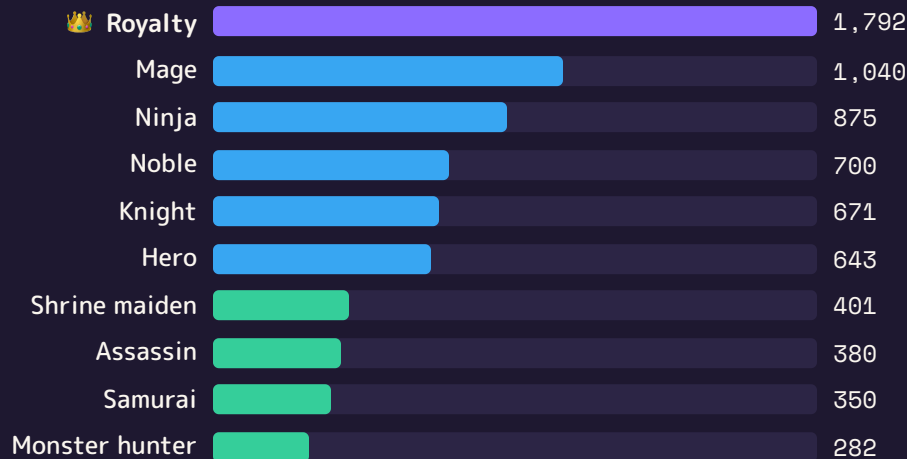
The #1 "job" isn't a job

Count fantasy roles and the most common "occupation" in anime is...

Royalty

1,792 titles > teachers' 1,370. Being a prince or princess out-ranks having an actual career. 🏰

FANTASY LEADERBOARD



TL;DR These aren't real occupations, so we kept them in their own bucket — but they're too iconic to leave out.

17 jobs anime never *names*

17 → 0 mentions

Zero anime — even after reading millions of lines of dialogue. But "never named" ≠ "never shown." So we split them two ways:

👁️ You've definitely seen these

Shown on screen constantly — just nobody ever says the job title.



Street-food sellers



Hotel receptionists



Driving instructors



House builders



Bicycle repairers



Fast-food workers



Travel agents

Every matsuri festival episode is packed with street-food stalls — nobody names the job.



Anime really skips these

Not visually distinctive, not story-worthy — genuinely near-absent.

Industrial engineers

Financial analysts

Systems analysts

Ships' engineers

Vet techs

Dental assistants

IT-operations techs

Personal-care aides

Instrument tuners

Printers

TL;DR

Anime will animate a demon-slaying swordsmith — but never once make you hear the words "hotel receptionist," even in the episode where one is standing right there.

A few jobs up close



Dentist

94 0.5%

⚠️ UNRELIABLE • 69%

There is literally a "**The Dragon Dentist**" (Eva studio). Also Speed Grapher, Kannagi.



Software engineer

113 0.6%

✓ RELIABLE

Cowboy Bebop, Psycho-Pass, Future Diary, Miss Kobayashi's Dragon Maid.



Insurance

18 0.1%

✓ ROCK-SOLID

TRIGUN's two leads are literally insurance agents billing the hero for damage. Also Planetes, GITS.



Barista

25 0.14%

✓ RELIABLE-ISH

Cafés everywhere, named baristas rare. Wotakoi, Komi Can't Communicate, Tokyo Ghoul:re.



Bank worker

43 0.24%

✓ RELIABLE

Death Note, SPYxFAMILY, The Devil is a Part-Timer!, JoJo: Diamond is Unbreakable.



Tram / bus driver

5 0.03%

✓ GLORIOUSLY RARE

Rosario + Vampire, Aoashi, Detective Conan, Laid-Back Camp Season 2.



Designer / illustrator

189 1.0%

✓ RELIABLE

Creatives are everywhere. Code Geass, Sakurasou, Eromanga Sensei, BLEND-S.

Type any job → get its rank.

Every card is one row of the same lookup table — reliability stamp included.

Honest (and funny) caveats



Named ≠ shown

We count spoken job titles, so silent background jobs slip right past us. (See slide 8.)



The mecha problem

Our AI kept counting giant-robot "pilots" as airline pilots. "Aircraft pilot" scored just **12% precision**, so we flagged it. Gundam is not an airline. ✈️



"Sensei" chaos

In Japanese, 先生 means teacher, doctor, *and* manga artist. Context is everything.



33 of 133 flagged "unreliable"

A quarter of measured jobs got the unreliable stamp — we'd rather tell you than fake confidence.

The whole thing cost \$44.73

— ANIME JOBS · RECEIPT —

Fast AI · ~101,000 judgments **\$0.0003 ea.**

Smarter AI · ~2,000 spot-checks **incl.**

Data collection **FREE**

TOTAL **\$44.73**

🍕 about one large pizza w/ delivery + tip



Idea → dataset in about a day

...most of it unattended while AI batches churned in the background.

~15 min

collect 22k anime

~20 min

scan 128k subtitle
files

~2 hrs

~101k AI judgments

TL;DR A medium's worth of data, classified for the price of dinner — mostly while we did something else.

12 · SO... NOW YOU KNOW

Anime will show you a demon-slaying blacksmith, a bounty-hunting ex-cop, and **1,792 members of royalty** — but it will never once say the words **"hotel receptionist,"** even in the episode where one is standing right there.

Now you know exactly where each job ranks. 🎬



Look up any job yourself

elmiram.github.io/anime-professions ↗

Data: AniList + a community Japanese-subtitle archive · Classified with ISCO-08 · Judged by Claude Haiku, graded by Claude Opus · Built for fun, over a weekend, for \$44.73.