

C1 Advanced Part 8

1 Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

information • scan • sections • skim

In tasks where you match statements with different texts or (a) of a text, it's a good idea to use different reading techniques. When you (b) a text, you read it quickly to get a general, overall idea of the text. When you (c), you quickly look for something specific in a text, like a word or (d)

2 Choose the correct alternative.

When you (a) take/experience an obstacle or (b) suffer/make a setback in your career, it's important to understand if it's worth fighting for. Think to yourself, is this a process in which I'm going to (c) create/gain valuable knowledge or is this something I don't need to challenge. Once you make this decision it's important to never look (d) back/behind and either (e) speak/voice your opinion and try to change things in your current job or take (f) up/over a position at another company.

✓ Exam tip

In tasks where you match statements with different texts or sections of a text, it's a good idea to skim and scan. When you skim a text, you read it quickly to get a general, overall idea of the text. When you scan, you quickly look for something specific in a text, like a word or information.

3 You are going to read four short articles by people talking about whether they went straight into work or studied at university. For questions 1–10, choose from the people (A–D). The people may be chosen more than once.

Work or University?



A Max

I know people go to university for various different reasons and also that it's not everyone's cup of tea. For me, I wanted to follow in my Mum's footsteps and get a degree, but it was also the chance to make new relationships that attracted me more than anything else. I mean, why would you want to head straight into a job when you can live with your mates, have fun and expand your knowledge at the same time? I don't think it's ever really a bad decision even if it takes a few years because what you have to gain is more valuable. Having said that, if I hadn't had the financial support of my parents, I may well have gone into a job straight from school. I realise that not everyone has that kind of support. I came out thinking I'd embark on a career straight away but it still takes time. A degree certainly isn't a golden ticket like some may think. Anyway, I eventually found my feet in the charity sector and have never looked back. I still see my mates from university and they have become lifelong friends so it's all good.

B Lucia

When it came to choosing the first step in my career, I had to think long and hard about what I wanted to do. I didn't really have much of a clue. Most of my friends chose to continue their studies. It felt like a brave decision at the time that I chose to do something different. I served an apprenticeship with a local plumbing company as I saw a gap in the market. There are hardly any women who decide on this kind of career. Anyway, a few of my friends now look back and think they made the wrong choice. Luckily, I wanted to get my hands dirty and had had enough of books so it was just right for me. To be honest, if I hadn't started working, I'm sure I'd still be paying off my student loan. Being a student these days is far from cheap and that's what should be taken into consideration too. I've heard the stuff about university making you more able to do things on your own like pay bills and stuff but I'm not sure that I agree. I've had my own place since I was 19.

C1 Advanced Part 8 (continued)

C Ivor

You have to look at your particular situation I think. Sure, there are a lot of great schemes and apprenticeships you can apply for straight out of school. But if you're careful about the course you follow, I don't agree with people who say you can't get a job straight after university graduation. I just think that, in my case, although my parents were keen for me to start earning, I was dead against it. I'd always known university was for me. If I'd done what they wanted me to do, I'd have lost a couple of years doing something I had no enthusiasm for. As it turns out, I'm now able to hold a managerial position a few years earlier than my peers who don't have a degree. In that way it does enable you to climb the ladder more rapidly. It's also a good lesson in how to survive on your own. I don't think I'd boiled an egg before I moved from home to my university accommodation! My advice is to go for a career in something you're passionate about and sometimes this means upsetting the people around you. Thankfully my family now sees that it was the right choice for me.

D Nadine

I'm not from the sort of background that continues into further education. My mum and dad have a family business that they started from scratch. They came to this country with nothing and had all that drive and ambition to make a success of what they did. I wanted to be different I guess so I packed my bags and headed off to study law. Now I work at a top law firm in London as a solicitor. I can't complain about my salary, but to be honest, that's about the only thing that keeps me going. While it's true that a degree gives you access to careers that you wouldn't otherwise be able to follow, I can't help feeling that I might be happier if I'd decided on a different path. Now I have a nice house and I am able to go on some fantastic holidays. On the other hand, I am stressed and work really long hours. One day I dream of owning a cake shop so I'm saving up money each month to be able to do this at some point.

Which person...

- 1 decided to do a similar thing to a family member by attending university?
- 2 wishes that they had made a different choice looking back?
- 3 felt that they were ready to start a career rather than continue studying?
- 4 points out that university doesn't guarantee a job at the end of your degree?
- 5 thinks a university qualification allows you to get ahead quicker?
- 6 considers going to university an expensive option in modern times?
- 7 admits that university qualifications open doors?
- 8 believes that university can teach you independence?
- 9 would now like to pursue a more creative career?
- 10 wanted to continue their studies to meet new people?

C1 Advanced Part 3

1 Choose the correct alternative

In word-formation tasks, remember that the spelling of the root word (a) can change/doesn't change when (b) a prefix or a suffix/a suffix is added. You will (c) never/sometimes have to add both a prefix and a suffix. Also, remember that (d) no/some words will need to be plural.

2 Read the phrases and choose the correct definitions.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 be successful in spite of challenges | a find your feet |
| 2 say what you mean honestly | b put something on hold |
| 3 not rely on others for money | c speak your mind |
| 4 begin to feel comfortable in a new situation | d weigh up the pros and cons |
| 5 start a new plan or scheme | e become financially independent |
| 6 stop doing something and leave it until later | f overcome adversity |
| 7 consider the good and bad things in a situation | g embark on a project |

✓ Exam tip

In word-formation tasks, remember that the spelling of some root words changes when we add a suffix or a prefix. Also, for some words, you may need to add both a suffix and a prefix. Lastly, check carefully whether any words need to be plural.

- 3 For questions 1–8, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Extra-curricular activities give you the edge



When you take up a new sport or join one of your school's (0) societies (society), it's easy to see it as a bit of fun. But these activities can be more than a form of (1) (relax) at the weekend or a social event with your friends.

Have you ever thought that they could actually help your career? (2) (employ) are looking for people who have personal qualities that can help them become (3) (product) members of a team.

A 2018 survey found that soft skills, such as personal qualities that (4) (able) someone to interact well with others, are important for getting through the initial stage of the (5) (recruit) process.

You can pick up skills you can reuse for different jobs such as team work, problem-solving and (6) (decide)-making by playing sport or being part of a theatre group. If you volunteer in your free time, this shows that you (7) (strong) believe in helping others.

(8) (fortune), if some applicants don't mention extra-curricular activities on their CV, they could be missing out on job opportunities.