

## Open comprehension

## 1 In reading activities with open comprehension questions, what should you do first?

- Read the first question, then read the text in detail looking for the answer.
- Quickly read all the questions, then quickly read the text.
- Read the whole text in detail.

## 2 Find and correct one mistake in each sentence.

- I'll always remember applying for my first work.  
.....
- Before you write a contract, read it thoroughly first.  
.....
- My uncle makes shift work so he does different hours every day. ....
- Have you ever been in charge for other people in your job? .....
- It's OK to turn up a job if you don't think you're suited to it. ....
- In my first part-time job, I earned a very small pay.  
.....

## ✓ Exam tip

In reading activities with comprehension questions, read the text quickly to get a general idea. This is called skimming. To skim, you can often read just the first sentence or two of each paragraph.

## 3 Answer the following questions in your own words according to the information given in the text.

- What problem does the writer introduce in the first paragraph?  
.....
- Why is Bill Gates mentioned?  
.....
- Why is volunteering viewed positively by employers?  
.....
- What did Jeff Bezos learn working as a cook?  
.....
- How does the writer suggest taking advantage of an internship?  
.....
- How can class work be related to office work?  
.....
- Do you think the text is optimistic or pessimistic? Explain.  
.....

## The first job dilemma

Everybody's been there: you're straight out of college and applying for your first job, and you're asked what experience you have. The clue should really be in the fact that you're a graduate. It generally means that you've been too busy studying to earn a salary.



So, how can this problem be tackled? The best approach is to get ahead and gain some experience while you're still studying. Many successful people started out this way: for example, Bill Gates worked as a computer programmer while he was in his senior year at high school. Obviously, becoming super rich like Gates isn't guaranteed, but having had a job at a company will get your foot in the door.

Another option would be to volunteer, ideally doing something related to the career you can see yourself going into. Lacking a pay packet shouldn't put you off. The upside is that you might be able to get into a field you're interested in and learn from skilled colleagues. Volunteering is also something employers value: it shows how motivated you are and that you're a team player.

Transferable skills are beneficial too. Look at Jeff Bezos, founder of an online retail giant, who worked part-time at a fast-food restaurant while he was at high school. He said he learnt a lot about business by flipping burgers. You probably don't see the connection, but he found one: moving items from the seller to the customer quickly and carefully.

How about if you haven't done this before you graduated? Well, do not fear, there's still hope. You may be able to find an internship or temporary work in a company. And while you're there, avoid just doing the work: consider how you're going to turn the experience into an opportunity. Look at the permanent posts coming up and form good relationships with employees. They could recommend you for a position one day or provide a valuable reference to a potential employer in the future.

And don't ignore your college course and qualifications completely. Look to teachers for help or a reference. They once had to find their first job and may have some handy hints. You could also find out how what you've studied and what you want to do are related. Academic tasks like conducting research or writing a report can also be required in the world of work: for example, in a finance job, you might be asked to find and present some data about the economy. Finally, students can be in charge of different aspects of college life, from fundraising to writing for the college newspaper. This is all valuable experience.

Trying to enter the world of work can be a slow process, but don't let that put you off. Once you've been offered your first job, nothing will stop you!

## 4 Find words or phrases in the text for these definitions.

- deal with an issue .....
- enter a business at a low level .....
- skills you can use in different jobs or situations  
.....
- a statement about someone's character and abilities used when applying for a job .....
- useful advice .....

## B2 First Part 1

1 In multiple-choice activities where you have to choose the correct word, you should remember to ...

- a focus on grammar and not vocabulary.
- b change the words to fit the gap.
- c look for words which often go together (collocations).

2 Match to make collocations.

- |                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| 1 long .....      | a job      |
| 2 well .....      | b hours    |
| 3 high- .....     | c overtime |
| 4 part-time ..... | d employed |
| 5 work .....      | e pressure |
| 6 self- .....     | f paid     |

✓ Exam tip

In multiple-choice activities where you have to choose the correct word, first read the text quickly to understand the main idea. Before you choose each answer, try all four words in the gap and look carefully for any collocations.

3 For questions 1–8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example:

- 0 A while B when C how D during

### Jobs for teens



As a teenager, there came a time (0) *when* I wanted a part-time job. OK, I was working for the (1) ..... wage, but I didn't care. Employment not (2) ..... gave me a sense of independence, but also some well-earned pocket money. But before you look into the local job market, it's worth (3) ..... what kind of work is available to you.

For animal lovers, there's dog walking. Busy people will often pay someone to take out their four-legged friend. Just make (4) ..... you feel comfortable being in charge of the pet first. Or you might fancy becoming a lifeguard. You should be (5) ..... on swimming, but you'll need to have training in first (6) ..... as well.

Alternatively, you could do a paper round. Despite (7) ..... able to read news on the internet, physical newspapers are still preferred by a large number of people, especially if they can have them delivered straight to their door.

So, why not start job (8) ..... today?

- |               |               |                |               |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1 A decreased | B bottom      | C minimum      | D low         |
| 2 A even      | B ever        | C only         | D hardly      |
| 3 A consider  | B considering | C considered   | D to consider |
| 4 A check     | B right       | C clear        | D sure        |
| 5 A keen      | B interested  | C enthusiastic | D eager       |
| 6 A help      | B aid         | C treatment    | D care        |
| 7 A been      | B be          | C being        | D to be       |
| 8 A finding   | B looking     | C exploring    | D hunting     |