

1- Read the text below and mark the statements true (T) or false (F).

### THE POWER OF COMMUNICATION

When I was younger I hated languages. My dad spoke several and was convinced I had inherited his ability. I barely passed a GCSE in German and promised myself to concentrate on English from then on.

It wasn't until I started thinking about my gap year that I considered learning a second language while I was away. I eventually chose Chile and, to my surprise, after being there for four months I was addicted to learning Spanish.

I was working in a school for disabled children in a class of six. Only two children could speak, and neither of them well, but I realized slowly that every child could communicate. Some of them used physical signs and movements to express themselves. Others used their voices – they made noises which changed depending on how they felt. They even 'talked' to each other, having arguments and friendly chats like anyone else. Every child in that room had a strong personality, likes and dislikes, desires and fears that they communicated every day, without saying a single sentence. Slowly, I learned not only Spanish but the language of every one of the children I cared for. It was inspirational to see these children whose disability gave them a good excuse to not learn, chatting with each other and myself easily. I had been making excuses for not trying all these years and here were a group of disabled eight-year-olds showing me how important communication really is. It made me want to learn Spanish so that I could express my personality in the way that they had learned to do.

And so, every day I would go to work for 8 hours, come home and spend my evenings studying Spanish. I loved the thrill of recognizing a new word. When I arrived I spoke nothing but when I left I could happily have a conversation. I changed my degree from History to Spanish language. My life was going in a completely different direction, and I'm sure I'm happier than I would have been if I hadn't changed course. That is what I learned from those children – that dedication to communication can open doors like nothing else. Doors to friendship and happiness, to excitement and adventure.

Just don't tell my dad that he was right....

(Adapted from <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org>)

**GLOSSARY: GAP YEAR.** A YEAR BETWEEN LEAVING SCHOOL AND GOING TO UNIVERSITY, WHICH SOME YOUNG PEOPLE USE AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL, EARN MONEY, OR GET EXPERIENCE OF WORKING.

1. The writer had always been highly interested in languages. \_\_\_\_\_
2. None of the students in the Chilean school could speak. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The writer admired the effort the children made to communicate. \_\_\_\_\_
4. All the students in his class managed to express their ideas and feelings. \_\_\_\_\_
5. His work with disabled children made him change his course of studies. \_\_\_\_\_

### GRAMMAR

1- Complete the sentences with the correct future form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 As soon as the teacher comes, he  (explain) what we've got to do.
- 2  (you/do) anything exciting this weekend? We  (have) a party if you want to come.
- 3 Look at this essay title! It  (be) really difficult to write.
- 4 I can't believe it. In a few hours' time I  (celebrate) the end of exams.
- 5 By the time I start university, you  (work) for two years.
- 6 My new job  (start) at 8 a.m. so I think I  (go) to bed early.
- 7 Can you finish that at home? The bell  (be about to) go.

2- Complete the text with these phrases.

**will be- will have been studying – won’t have earned- will begin- is going to- 'll be learning- starts-  
'm doing- won’t be- 'll have gained**

I've got plans too!

Soon, most of my friends 1 \_\_\_\_\_ their university courses but I've got other plans. I 2 \_\_\_\_\_ an apprenticeship! It's basically a training scheme with a local company and it 3 \_\_\_\_\_ in December. I'm really excited because the company 4 \_\_\_\_\_ design the new football kit for my favourite team. At first I 5 \_\_\_\_\_ basic office skills. That 6 \_\_\_\_\_ too difficult for me because I'm quite confident with the computer and answering the phone. What 7 \_\_\_\_\_ more challenging is meeting the customers face to face. At the end of the apprenticeship I 8 \_\_\_\_\_ lots of new skills. In the meantime, my friends 9 \_\_\_\_\_ for two years but they 10 \_\_\_\_\_ anything!

3- Complete the conditional sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 If they had known about the traffic problems, they ..... (not go) to live there.
- 2 If they hadn't built a factory near our village, my family ..... (not move) house.
- 3 If I want to go shopping, I ..... (catch) the bus from my town to Manchester. It only takes thirty minutes to get there.
- 4 If I had a dog, I ..... (walk) it every day in our local park. It's only five minutes from my house.
- 5 If it rains heavily, the road near our house ..... (flood) and we can't get into the nearby village.
- 6 What a shame! If I'd met you earlier, I ..... (could/show) you around the city.
- 7 If I lived in a village, I ..... (learn) to drive. That way, I could visit my friends.
- 8 If the bus hadn't been late, I ..... (see) the start of the film.

**VOCABULARY**

1-Choose the correct words to complete the text.

Hi, I'm Ali and thanks for inviting me to your careers day. I'm 1 an unemployed/ a self-employed costume designer in the theatre. If you think that sounds like a job with long holidays and lots of time 2 down/ off, think again! I'm not only 3 responsible/ responsibility for the designs, but also the schedule and budget. I need to work both 4 independently/ independent and 5 like/ as a team. People sometimes confuse 6 being/ having your own boss with working 7 shifts/ part-time. My job is very much full-time. That means I 8 have/ work a lot of pressure, but I also have control 9 over/ on my own time. I can work when I like, provided I get the job done. And I need to do that to have a good 10 money / salary of course!

2- Read the vocabulary box and Luke and Megan's story. Match the highlighted phrases with the definitions.

Hi, we're Luke and Megan and we're both unschooled! Our mum **came up with** the plan when she got a new job abroad. She wanted us to **keep up with** some sort of learning. We decided that the experience of unschooling would **make up for** the classes we missed because we would be learning in the real world. We can choose what we do every day. Sounds cool? Sure, but it doesn't suit everybody. Mum persuaded us to use the time away to **catch up on** stuff we really enjoy. As I'm fascinated by bees and into photography, I decided to write my own blog and Megan's learning Chinese. We never **run out of** ideas for what we're going to do next. Luckily we **get on with** each other. If we didn't it would be awful.

A not have enough of something \_\_\_\_\_

B make a situation better or replace something \_\_\_\_\_

C manage to do as much or as well as other people \_\_\_\_\_

D do something you haven't been able to do until now \_\_\_\_\_

E have a good relationship \_\_\_\_\_

F think of an idea or answer \_\_\_\_\_

