Boost your skills!

Listen to the recording twice and complete the gaps in the sentences with 1-3 words.

1 The teacher is talking to students who are in their _____year at school.
2 Students will make university applications in _____.
3 After their exams, some students might take a year off to work _____.
4 There will be additional classes for the students about careers and _____.
5 The first talk is about banks and will be given by _____.
6 The speaker advises some students to get a _____.
7 Any students' parents who would like to help should phone: _____.
8 Students should go to _____on Monday to hear the talk about banks.

Read the text and match the interview questions A - F with paragraphs 1-4. There are two extra questions.

A What is the most dangerous part of being a firefighter?
B What is the most important personal quality for afirefighter?
C How physically fit do you have to be?
D How did you become a firefighter?
E Why did you decide to become a firefighter?
F What other skills do you need?

1
I'm Jack Gomez, and I'm a firefighter in California. I remember watching an interview with a firefighter pilot when I was a child. He'd been fighting a fire for about five days. He was exhausted, but he was still there, talking about how many lives were being saved. He was so optimistic and committed that I thought that I wanted to do the same thing. And I never changed my mind.

2
I did a training camp to get my wildfire qualification card - you can't fight fires in the US without one. I learned how to light controlled fires, and how to put them out again. I also learned how to use all the equipment. The camp was really hard, but I passed first time - which was a big relief to me! After that I applied for a job, and I was lucky enough to get one.

3
One of the things you have to do in the early days is the pack test. This consists of a five-kilometre walk while carrying a backpack that weights twenty kilograms. You must be able to complete it in forty-five minutes or less without jogging or running. This shows how strong you are. If you can't do this, how can you carry the heavy fire equipment, or fight

4
You can be out alone in vast forests and national parks, and sometimes the smoke is so thick that you can hardly see. So it's important to be able to know where you're going, to be able to map read, and to use a compass. Also, you must know how to put up a tent, cook outdoors, drive a truck, and have other basic survival skills.

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first. Use between two and five words, including the word in brackets.

1 I'm too short to reach that book on the top shelf. (not)

I'm _____ to reach that book on the top shelf.

2 The manager had a good idea about the new project. (came)

The manager _____a good idea about the new project.

3 Jack really wants a job in advertising. (keen)

Jack _____find a job in advertising.

4 We only ate a few sandwiches so there are a lot left. (eat)

We _____ sandwiches so there are a lot left.

5 It's raining, but Kelly is still going for a swim. (spite)

_____ rain Kelly is still going for a swim.

LIVEWORKSHEETS