a Underline the noun phrases in the text.

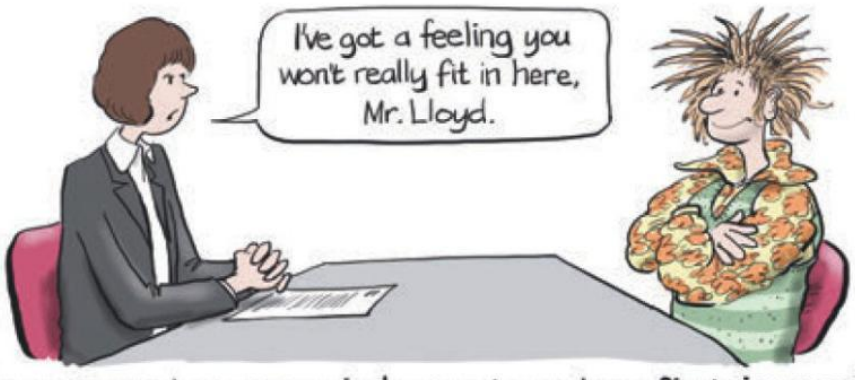
One memorable summer day, I was coming home after an exhausting day at work when I met an old friend I hadn't seen for ages. I don't know why, but I had the strong feeling that this was no mere coincidence. In fact, she had a proposition to make to me that was about to change my life. She said that she was looking for a reliable partner who she could trust to invest in a project started by a few friends of hers. I made a few phone calls to the bank and had the money needed to get involved. My boring days of sitting behind a desk were behind me.

b Improve each noun phrase.

1 the bus's seats *the seats of the bus*
2 the stop for the train
3 a book written brilliantly
4 a moment that is awaited eagerly
5 a meeting that lasts one hour
6 an injury that can change your life
7 the bright idea of Ed
8 the girl that I introduced you to's aunt

c Improve the noun phrases in *italics* without significantly changing their meanings.

Human resources experts
~~*Experts who work in the field of human resources*~~ say that interviewers make *decisions about who to hire* within the first minute of an interview. Of course, *mistakes that cost a lot* can be made, and sometimes the wrong people are hired. Nevertheless, companies have to rely on their managers' *skills in being able to make decisions*. Most of us have experienced at least one *interview that was a nightmare*, perhaps conducted by a *manager who has relatively little experience*. In a situation like this, your options are limited: plow on through the interview, or walk out after the first minute!



You never get a second chance to make a first impression.

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