

Talking about yourself

In all interviews you will be required to talk about yourself. The interviewers want to find out whether you're the type of person who would be able to do the job and also whether your personality would fit in with the rest of the company.

6 a In pairs, discuss how you would answer the following questions.

- 1 Can you tell us something about yourself?
- 2 What did you learn during your time at university?
- 3 What kinds of things do you worry about?
- 4 Would you say you're an ambitious person?

b ▶ 4.7 Alejandro is a recent Economics graduate, practising for an interview at an international bank. Listen to his answers to the four questions in Exercise 6a. In pairs, discuss what you think of Alejandro's answers, and suggest ways in which he could improve them.

c ▶ 4.8 Listen to a recruitment expert, Grace, commenting on each of Alejandro's answers. Do you agree with her?

d ▶ 4.9 Listen to the answers Alejandro gives in the real interview. How has he improved his responses?



- e** ▶ 4.9 Complete Alejandro's improved answers using the correct form of the verbs in the box. Listen again and check your answers.

apply	communicate	develop	gain	get (x2)
lead	make	meet	motivate	put
				work

Interviewer: Can you tell us something about yourself?

Alejandro: Well, I'm motivated and I (1) put a lot of effort into everything I do, whether I'm studying at university, at work or even when I'm playing sport. During my last year at university I was captain of the basketball team. I had to organise matches and (2) _____ the players. As captain it was essential that I was able to (3) _____ effectively and get along with everybody in the team ... and for the first time in years our team managed to reach the regional final. We didn't win, unfortunately, but (4) _____ the team to the final was a big achievement for me.

Interviewer: What did you learn during your time at university?

Alejandro: Oh, lots of things. My Economics degree was very practical, and there were many elements of the degree that could be (5) _____ to the business world. I had a number of challenging assignments, which often had to be completed within a short period of time. This helped me to (6) _____ my prioritising skills and ability to (7) _____ to tight deadlines.

Interviewer: What kinds of things do you worry about?

Alejandro: I worry about normal things, the same as everybody else, I think. I worry about (8) _____ deadlines and (9) _____ everything done on time. I used to worry about data on my computer quite a bit. Now I back up all my data on an external hard drive, so that everything is protected. This way I've got one less thing to worry about.

Interviewer: Would you say you're an ambitious person?

Alejandro: Yes, I would say that I'm ambitious. I'm very keen to (10) _____ a job with a company such as yours where I can (11) _____ full use of my degree and professional experience. I am a dedicated worker and would hope to (12) _____ internal promotion based on my performance at work.

- f** Underline useful phrases from Alejandro's answers in Exercise 6e which you could use to answer the same questions. For example, I put a lot of effort into everything I do, whether I'm ... or even when I'm ... Plan your own answers to the questions.
- g** In pairs, take turns to ask and answer the questions.