

Reading and Use of English

You are going to read an article about a woman who works with celebrities as a fashion stylist. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-G the one which fits each gap (1-6). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

'I often spend the day shopping'



Rachel Fanconi is a fashion stylist who has worked with many stars. She was interviewed by Alex McRae

Fashion styling is basically about making people look nice. I work on editorial photo shoots, styling models for fashion spreads in magazines and newspapers, and I also style celebrities for big awards ceremonies. 1 _____ There's actually a strong commercial element to styling.

A typical day usually starts with me packing up and returning clothes worn at an awards ceremony the night before, then heading

out to find new things for my next assignment. Some stylists go through public relations agencies to find clothes. 2 _____ As a stylist, your contacts are extremely important, so I'm very protective of mine. If I'm finding clothes for someone new, I'll call the person first to discuss their likes and dislikes, which helps me to put together a profile. Then I'll spend the day shopping and bring back lots of different outfits for them to choose from.

The best thing about my job is shopping. I hope that doesn't sound too shallow. 3 _____ I work with a big list of people - models, make-up artists, photographers - on various different assignments, and it's lovely checking in with them if I haven't seen them for a few months. You're collaborating together to make something look gorgeous, and when things come together, it's hugely satisfying.

It's easy, however, to get caught up in the glamour of the job. I feel that with any demanding career, it's important to have a balance. 4 _____ My husband and I are both stylists and we try to avoid this. We're great football fans - we go to lots of games and try to keep one part of our lives separate from our jobs.

There are a range of skills you need to be a top fashion stylist. It's not enough to have an artistic eye. 5 _____ For example, if you go to gigs, exhibitions and plays, it will inform your work. During a fashion shoot, you have to be hawk-eyed, ready to swoop on any uneven hemlines. It is important to be really thorough and careful.

I take digital photos and print out suggestions of shoe, bag and outfit combinations, to make sure everything goes together.

So the reality is that it's a lot of hard work. If you want to be a fashion stylist, get a qualification under your belt - not necessarily a degree in fashion styling, but maybe in design. 6 _____ Then do work experience with a stylist in the most stressful environment possible - probably fashion shoots for a newspaper - so you learn to work under pressure to a deadline. Try to learn your craft from a stylist you admire, be as professional as you can, and be prepared to do a lot of work for free.

- A** Otherwise, you could let styling take over your life and become a caricature 'fashion' person, in a bubble.
- B** You should try to find inspiration in unexpected places.
- C** I work differently in that I prefer to deal with people directly, and I try to support London designers.
- D** More important is planning and organisation.
- E** Their clothes are usually loaned, because when an outfit appears in a magazine or on a celebrity, it's advertising.
- F** That will give you a useful range of skills.
- G** Apart from that, it's the social aspect of the job which is important to me.