

Gold B2 First - Unit 8

1. Reading

MULTIPLE MATCHING. You are going to read a magazine article about four people and their first jobs. Read the questions 1- 12 and match them to the people A - D (...../12)

My First Job

A. Eileen

Hardly anyone in my year at school had a job, and if they did, it was helping their parents with whatever they did, but I really wanted to earn some of my own money and be able to spend it in whatever took my fancy. The trouble was that there weren't a lot of jobs around at the time and even fewer for a teenage girl without any skills or qualifications. My parents had a friend who owned an apple orchard and he was complaining to them one night about how difficult it was to get people to pick the apples. I overheard – and that was how my career as a fruit picker began. The other pickers were almost all women in their thirties or forties so I was the baby of the group. They were nice to me, especially at the beginning when I was very new, not just for the orchard but to the whole experience of working. If you wanted to make any money, you had to pick very fast because we weren't paid a wage, but our money was based on the number of wooden crates we filled with apples. The other women, who almost all worked in pairs, filled nine or ten of these a day but my record working was a rather pitiful two. Still I did have a bit of money in my pocket at the end of the week which was what I wanted, after all.

B. Susan

There was no question on having the pony my parents had bought me at home, so we had to pay for her to be kept at a nearby farm. There were a couple of teenage girls working there part-time and it was my dream that the people who managed the farm would offer me a job too. Sure enough, when I turned fifteen, they did. My parents were not at all keen on the idea because they said the work was too hard but I loved every second of it. We had to clean the stables, feed and groom the horses and in the spring help with the new foals. That was the best part. The money wasn't great, but it really didn't mean anything to me. I just wanted to be with the horses. We didn't get actually to ride them, though, as they were all highly strung and could only be ridden by very experienced riders like Mr and Mrs Calvin, my employers. Actually I worked there for so long that I think they almost began to think of me as a daughter. When I left school I had to sell Tania - that was my pony's name – and give up the job but I still pop in on the Calvin's whenever I'm in town.

C. Margaret

My parents had a shop and we lived on the premises so even when we were tiny we were always in the shop with them. Almost as soon as I could walk, I started helping put things on the shelves and so on and then from the age of about nine I used to serve the costumers. Of course, I wasn't on the payroll, nor did I think I should have been. I just accepted that was the family shop and giving mum and dad a hand in it, was part of normal life. When I was about fifteen, a supermarket company made my parents an offer for the shop which they found very attractive at that time. We could continue to live there as tenants but the supermarket chain would actually own the shop. This new arrangement meant that my parents had to have the shop front painted in the company colours. It also meant that I had to go through the formalities of filling in a lot of forms and going on a training course so that I could continue to work there. It seemed a bit silly since I would have happily done the work for nothing but after that I was paid a small wage.

D. Patricia

My first real job was in a language school my uncle has set up in Majorca. He needed someone who spoke English, Spanish and the local dialect of Catalan as the manager and I fitted the bill. It was a bit overwhelming for someone like me who has just finished university because I was in complete charge of the school. It was very challenging and I learnt a lot about the business world and also about myself but I doubt whether I would take on a job like that again. There were so many problems I had not anticipated. I was not one of the teachers, so I often felt quite isolated. Still, there were good things about the job. The money was good and I was able to live in Spain for the first time in my life, which was something I had wanted to do since I was a child. I stuck it out for a year but in the end I had to change jobs. The pressure was too much. Then I went to work for a large company in the city and I loved it... particularly the fact that if there was anything I felt certain about I could always ask, and I was not in sole charge.

Which girl:

1. Was sometimes lonely?
2. Wanted the job very much?
3. Had too much responsibility?
4. Got the job by chance?
5. Disagreed with her parents about the job?
6. Found the job more difficult than expected?
7. Had to write an application for the job?
8. Thought that the money was unimportant?
9. Worked with people who were kind to her?
10. Is glad to have left the job?
11. Developed a special relationship with her employers?
12. Lived where she worked?

1. Use of English. WORD FORMATION. Read the texts below. Use the word given in CAPITALS below each text to form a word that fits in each gap (...../22)

AN ACTOR'S LIFE IS NOT A HAPPY ONE

Many people who think they have a (1) _____ future in films go to Hollywood only to find (2) _____ instead of success. They often have to give up the more (3) _____ aspects of their chosen career to play parts in (4) _____ because these provide (5) _____ security - but they are not satisfying. For many actors, even basic (6) _____ can be difficult. Some do not earn enough to pay their rent or (7) _____ bills, and the time and money they invest in the (8) _____ of a portfolio for interviews is often wasted. Of course, there is a possible (9) _____ why only 1% of actors are really (10) _____. There are just too many people who believe that their next (11) _____ will be the one that makes them a star!

1. PROFESSION

2. DISAPPOINT

3. ENJOY

4. ADVERTISE

5. FINANCE

6. SURVIVE

7. ELECTRIC

8. PREPARE

9. EXPLAIN

10. SUCCEED

11. PERFORM

TRIPLETS

Unlike most of my friends I grew up in a big, (1) _____, happy family so (2) _____, when I got married, I wanted to have lots of children. The trouble was that my husband and I were not very (3) _____. In fact we were quite poor so it came as an (4) _____ shock when I had triplets. Everyone in the family was very (5) _____, of course and the babies were absolutely (6) _____, but it was not easy. Small children are extremely (7) _____ and three little girls running around the house made me feel (8) _____ because I was afraid they might hurt themselves. There were (9) _____ moments of course and we were both extremely (10) _____ that our children were happy, (11) _____, and such good friends for one another. In the end, the money was not important!

1. NOISE

2. NATURE

3. WEALTH

4. AWE

5. SUPPORT

6. ADORE

7. ACT

8. NERVE

9. FUN

10. THANK

11. HEALTH

Total Marks: _____/34