

Working in a man's world

Listen to the interview with 22-year-old April Considine. Can you guess which of the following is her occupation?

- Teacher
- Design engineer
- Doctor
- Pilot



Now read the text to check if you were right!

At the age of 22, April Considine has just won the UK "Young woman of the year" engineering award. After school, she went to train with a company called Marshall's Aerospace in Cambridge, UK. She now works there as a design engineer. She is one of only six women in the company, where there are 250 employees.

At Marshall's Aerospace, customers often bring their aeroplanes to be changed in some way. Perhaps they want a new door, or new seats inside the plane. They might want to add something to the wing or have a new video system. It is April's job – along with her colleagues – to design the necessary changes.

Listen to the following part of the interview and answer the questions.

- Who first encouraged April to be interested in engineering?
- On the whole, does April think that being a woman in a male environment is a good thing or a bad thing?

Are the following sentences True or False? Write T or F in the spaces.

- April's father is Irish
- A glider is an aeroplane without an engine
- April can fly a glider
- April sometimes works at Marshall's at the weekend
- April's work is usually checked by four other people
- A hangar is a big building where you put aeroplanes
- April works in the hangars
- There were many girls in the hangars
- Nobody spoke to April in the hangars

Check the meaning of the following phrases. Listen to track 2 again and choose the things that April says are important in her job.

It is important to:

- A ...arrive and leave work on time
- B ... be a hard worker
- C ...be able to communicate
- D ... be able to prove yourself
- E ...be able to work on your own
- F ...be decisive
- G ...be courteous
- H ...be energetic
- I ...be good-looking
- J ...be organised
- K ...be well-dressed
- L ...be young and enthusiastic
- M ... go out in the evening with colleagues
- N ...love your job
- O ...make sure it's right
- P ...show initiative

April used the following expressions in Track 2. Explain the meaning of the words and phrases in blue.

- a) He's always been really **keen on** engineering
- b) He's always working on cars and **bits and pieces**
- c) He did **a little bit** himself
- d) I **got involved with** that
- e) It still **comes down to you**
- f) ... if you sit there and just **do the minimum**
- g) They all **keep an eye on** what I'm doing
- h) ... to find out how I was **getting on**