

MAXWELL'S JOB INTERVIEW

Maxwell had not had a steady job for almost two years. Today was a big day, because he was going to a job interview that he felt good about. The secretary he had talked to on the phone sounded friendly and encouraging.

Maxwell was a typist. His fingers danced on the (23) _____. However, his social skills were not nearly as good as his typing skills. Sometimes his mouth got in the way of his employment. At his last steady (24) _____, his boss had told him to start making coffee every morning. Maxwell laughed. «I'm not making coffee», he said. «It's not part of my job description».

«Read the employee manual again», his boss said. «Your job description is anything I say it is».

«That's a woman's job», said Maxwell. «Do it yourself».

His boss was still yelling as Maxwell walked (25) _____ of the building. He felt great about telling off the boss. A few days later, the reality of not having a job hit home. He had to (26) _____ the rent and utility bills, and he had to eat. What was he going to do?

He thought about (27) _____ and asking for his job back. But how would that look? Then again, who cares how it looks when you're almost broke? After thinking about it for another week, he finally called his boss and apologised. His boss accepted his apology, but said that he had already hired a replacement.

Maxwell (28) _____ a temporary job agency, which provided him enough occasional work to pay his bills. But none of the companies that he was sent to were hiring. So Maxwell was excited about finally getting an interview for a steady job.

Maxwell's drive to the interview was (29) _____. The traffic was congested and the neighbourhood looked rough. It took him 45 minutes to get there. The building was covered with graffiti.

The interview started 30 minutes (30) _____. Without bothering to apologise, the manager lit a cigarette and took a (31) _____ from his coffee cup. He leaned back in his chair and put his feet up on his desk. He asked Maxwell a lot of questions. Maxwell thought that each question was more ridiculous than the (32) _____ one. The final question was, «Where would you like to be 10 years from now?»

«What does that have to do with typing?» Maxwell wondered. «Silly questions from a rude man in a lousy neighbourhood! Where would he like to be 10 years from now?»

«Anywhere but this dump!» Maxwell said angrily, as he stood up and walked out.

	A	B	C	D
23	keyboard	blackboard	smartboard	processor
24	trade	profession	career	job
25	out	in	on	away
26	expend	pay	take	buy
27	sorry	forgiveness	apologising	express regret
28	get in touch with	contacted	reached	spoke to
29	reasonable	suitable	appointing	disappointing
30	lost	last	late	later
31	sip	drop	taste	mouthful
32	next	former	preceding	following

MERCURY AND THE WORKMEN

A Workman, (33) _____ wood by the side of a river, let his axe drop by accident into a deep pool. So feeling unhappy and depressed, he (34) _____ down on the bank and started crying for his hard fate. Mercury appeared and demanded the cause of his tears. After he (35) _____ him his misfortune, Mercury (36) _____ into the stream, and, bringing up a golden axe, inquired if that (37) _____ the one he had lost. On his saying that it was not his, Mercury disappeared beneath the water for the second time, returned with a silver axe in his hand, and again asked the Workman if it was his. When the Workman said it was not, he dived into the pool (38) _____ the third time and brought up the axe that had been lost. The Workman claimed it and expressed his joy at its recovery. Mercury, pleased with his honesty, gave him the golden and silver axes in addition to his own.

The Workman, on his return home, related to his companions all that (39) _____. One of them at once resolved to try and secure the same good fortune for himself. He ran to the river and (40) _____ his axe on purpose into the pool at the same place, and sat down on the bank to weep. Mercury appeared to him just as he hoped he would; and having learned the cause of his grief, plunged into the stream and brought up a golden axe, inquiring if he (41) _____ it. The Workman seized it (42) _____, and declared that truly it was the very same axe that he had lost. Mercury, displeased with his dishonesty, not only took away the golden axe, but refused to recover for him the axe he had thrown into the pool.

	A	B	C	D
33	cut	cutted	cutting	cuts
34	sit	sat	has sat	had sat
35	was told	has told	had told	had been told
36	plunged	has plunged	had plunged	was plunged
37	be	was	been	are
38	for	on	in	up
39	happen	has happened	was happened	had happened
40	throw	threw	thrown	throwed
41	loses	has lost	had lost	was lost
42	greed	greedy	greedily	greeding