

1. Reading.

For questions 1-12 write A, B, C, D, or E . Read the texts .

A Amanda, 33

I had been working in sales for six years when I suffered an ankle injury that was to change my whole life. It didn't heal and someone suggested acupuncture, a traditional Chinese treatment for pain. I was so impressed by the treatment that I found out about classes. I had reached a point in my life where things had to change. In many ways I had it all: a company car, foreign business trips, my own house, a secure job. But at 29, I felt increasingly dissatisfied and wanted to be more adventurous. So I persuaded my boss to let me work a four-day week and did classes on the remaining day. It took four difficult years to qualify, as I was studying 25 hours a week on top of my job. It's been worth it though, and I get on well with the people I work for now. As for the BMW, I don't miss it at all!

B Eleanor, 25

I'd always loved skating and what I wanted above all was to be an ice dancer. Mum and Dad found classes for me but the rink was in another town so it took up a lot of their time driving me there. I'm so grateful to them for that, not to mention the huge sums they've invested in my training. I started competing at 14 and turned professional at 16. I've done a lot of great shows, but I chose to hang up my skates long before most ice-dancers do. For the last six months, I've been working for a sportswear firm to gain experience in business and marketing and my dream is to set up a company before long, producing boots, skates and costumes for the ice.

C Sue, 34

I'd never seen myself as academic. Hairdressing seemed glamorous and I wanted a car, so I went to work in a salon as an apprentice. I wasn't concerned about the poor pay - I had fun!

Then, all of a sudden, my husband's job moved to London. This forced me to reconsider my own life and I decided to take English and Law at night school there. I was spending 45 hours a week cutting hair and working for exams as well. I lost ten kilos in weight, but for all the stress of studying, I knew I was doing the right thing. After leaving college I went into market research. My confidence has always been low and it was three years before I felt I could cope effectively in the role. But it was worth it - my present earnings would have been unimaginable back in the salon.

D Dani, 30

I trained as a doctor but I knew all along it wasn't right for me and I found working in a hospital exhausting. My parents had run their dairy farm for thirty years and needed a long holiday, so we decided that I'd look after things for six months while they visited my brother in Australia. It gave me the career break I'd been looking for, except that I never went back. Mum and Dad have emigrated, so now I'm in charge for good, which is fine by me. At the beginning, I was quite inexperienced, though it felt natural to be back on the farm and didn't take me long to master everything. I've learned to be flexible - to fit in with the weather! Being in the open air is the best thing of all. I've just started selling my own cheese and by this time next year, I'll have launched my own ice cream.

E Rachel, 28

I worked for three investment banks in London, earning £60,000 a year in my last job. If I'd added up the hours I spent at my desk, it would have been huge - sometimes I was there until midnight. To begin with, I had lots of energy and I got a real buzz from the work, helped by the fact that everyone was willing to give me so much responsibility. Eventually, third time around, it got to me. At the time, the bank needed to reduce its staff and was offering a good leaving package, so I jumped at it. I spent six months getting to know Latin America, where I'd never been. Now I'm working freelance, editing articles for financial magazines. I've set up the spare room as an office and I hope to pick up enough work. People who need certainty and structure would find my new life difficult, but all in all, I feel I've made the right decision.

Which woman (A, B, C,D, or E)

- ___ reduced her working hours in order to study?
- ___ spends a lot of time outdoors
- ___ took part in competitions in her early teens?
- ___ would like to start her own business?
- ___ began her studies in a new location?
- ___ had a medical background originally?
- ___ travelled in her previous job
- ___ is satisfied with her new lack of routine?
- ___ visited another continent during a career break?
- ___ found her first job very tiring?
- ___ had financial support from her parents?
- ___ intends to expand her range of products?

II. Choose the correct variant

13. ... money do you want?
- a) How many
 - b) How much
 - c) Which
14. It ... in this part of the world.
- a) often rain
 - b) often rains
 - c) is often raining
15. I don't know Spanish, but I ... it at present.
- a) am learning
 - b) learns
 - c) learn
16. ... at my desk? Could you take your place, please.
- a) Why you are sitting
 - b) Why do you sit
 - c) Why are you sitting
17. It's Julia's birthday today. She's bought much food. She ... a lot.
- a) cooks
 - b) will cook
 - c) is going to cook
18. Nobody answers the phone. They ... be out
- a) have to
 - b) must
 - c) should
19. Little children like books with large print. They ... read them more easily.
- a) should
 - b) must
 - c) can
20. When I was young I cook easy dishes
- a) can
 - b) could
 - c) may

21. We ... try and fix it ourselves. What do you think?
- a) could
 - b) may
 - c) must
22. Dorothy is ... in her family.
- a) younger
 - b) the most young
 - c) the youngest
23. - It isn't very warm today, is it?
- No, it was ... yesterday.
- a) more warm
 - b) the warmest
 - c) warmer
24. Where is ... post-office?
- a) the nearest
 - b) the next
 - c) nearer
25. Public transport is ... in Europe.
- a) expensiver
 - b) more expensive
 - c) the most expensive
26. While I was looking for my passport I _____ this old photograph
- a) found
 - b) founded
 - c) finded
27. I _____ such a beautiful beach before I went to Kauai.
- a) have never seen
 - b) never saw
 - c) had never seen
28. Last night, while I _____ my homework, Angela called
- a) did
 - b) was doing
 - c) had done
29. I _____ up the phone and went to the kitchen to make dinner.
- a) hung
 - b) hang
 - c) had hung
30. Be quiet! John _____
- a) sleeps
 - b) is sleeping
 - c) has slept
31. The sights of small towns are _____ places of interest in the capitals.
- a) not so popular as
 - b) so popular
 - c) as popular than
 - d) not popular as
32. The architecture of London's cathedrals is _____ the one of Kyiv's cathedrals.
- a) not unique as
 - b) as unique as
 - c) not so unique
 - d) so unique as