

These days an average seventeen-year-old boy is usually thinking about taking his final school exams and deciding on what subjects to study at university. He might be considering serving an apprenticeship or going directly into the world of work and taking up a job immediately after he leaves school. He's probably wondering what his first salary will be and how soon it will be before he earns enough to buy a car or rent a flat. Not Nick D'Alosio.

Nick, from London, recently became a millionaire – not through playing the lottery or from an inheritance, but by designing and developing a phone application which he then sold to Yahoo! for an estimated £18m!

Nick's experience is the perfect example of how a dream can become a reality. As a child Nick had always been technical and talented. At the age of nine he was editing videos and making 3-D models on his computer. Then at 12, he taught himself basic programming to be able to create apps.

From his first app, launched when he was still twelve, he earned £79 on its first day and this encouraged him to go on to produce another and another. It was a great hobby. But for Nick, it was still just that – a hobby. He went to school, went to parties and played sports just like all the other kids. No one knew that in his bedroom he was



designing things that would soon completely change his life!

A few years later, at fifteen, Nick had the idea for an app that could summarise news stories, which he called Summly. He wanted young people to get brief information about news stories, which would let them decide whether they wanted to read the full versions or not, something that no other app could do. The app immediately became popular and attracted investment from a big company. Then the internet giant, Yahoo, became interested and not only bought the app, but hired its bright, talented young inventor, too.

So what does the future hold for Nick? He plans to return to education to take his A levels and at some point he wants to take a degree. Most of all, he wants to start up new businesses and obviously continue developing his own ideas. Whatever happens, Nick's future working life will certainly not be the normal 9–5 routine that the majority of us have to look forward to!

4 Read the text on page 63. For each question (1-5) choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

1 What is true of most young people?

- A** They are unable to make decisions about their future.
- B** They focus on getting their own car.
- C** They have a lot of different things on their minds.
- D** They spend their time only on preparing for and taking exams.

2 Nick learned how to create apps

- A** while he was working on videos.
- B** after learning the first steps of computer programming.
- C** as a consequence of making some money.
- D** when he first started school.

3 Nick developed his famous app because

- A** he saw a need for it.
- B** he was asked by an important company.
- C** he needed to make some money.
- D** he was interested in news stories.

4 Nick would like to

- A** work regular hours like everyone else.
- B** go back to studying.
- C** work for a range of important high tech companies.
- D** work on new inventions with other clever young people.

5 In the article, the author

- A** explains how young businessmen get their ideas.
- B** gives advice on how to become successful.
- C** advertises a documentary about a young entrepreneur.
- D** shows how a person's talent led to success.

- 3** Read the text and choose the sentence (A–E) that is true about it. Underline the parts of the text that helped you choose the answer. Why are the other answers wrong?

Harry entered a few science competitions when he was a child and, in fact, he won an important national prize just before his tenth birthday, so it was no surprise to his parents that his ambition was to become a top scientist. What no one had expected was that he would take his final exams three years early and be accepted by a big university when he was just fifteen years old.

- A** Harry came first in a big competition when he was ten years old.
- B** Harry fulfilled everyone's expectations by going to university early.
- C** Harry's parents expected him to have a career in science.
- D** Harry went to university before taking his end-of-school examinations.
- E** Harry won several prizes for science after starting secondary school.

GET SMARTER

Речення, якого бракує у тексті, може розширювати думку, висловлену в реченні перед пропуском, або містити приклади, які ілюструють те, про що згадується в загальних рисах.

1 Match sentences 1–5 with A–E. Explain how they are connected.

- 1** My new duties were quite monotonous.
 - 2** The company received a large number of complaints from customers.
 - 3** The candidate's body language was quite revealing during the interview.
 - 4** The company I first worked for organised a lot of in-house training for the staff.
 - 5** My boss valued his employees' feedback on new projects.
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- A** There were memorable team building days and regular seminars.
 - B** I had to check the shelves and continually restock them.
 - C** Comments and suggestions were always welcomed and considered.
 - D** Looking down is often a sign of discomfort and lack of confidence.
 - E** Apparently, many products had been damaged during transport and delivery.