

Reading

1 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- 1 Is leadership a natural-born talent or a learned skill?
- 2 What qualities does a successful leader need?
- 3 In what different situations do people need to work together as a group?
- 4 Does every group need a leader? Why/Why not?

2 Read the company web page and match the questions from exercise 1 with the correct paragraphs (A–D).

3 Read the web page again. Write true (T), false (F) or not given (NG)?

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|---|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | Being able to work in a group is one of the most important life skills. | ☐ |
| 2 | Groups of people doing social activities generally don't need leaders. | ☐ |
| 3 | Members of leaderless groups often stop attending. | ☐ |
| 4 | Antonio Carluccio thinks he is a natural-born leader. | ☐ |
| 5 | Good leaders are often slightly afraid of their role. | ☐ |
| 6 | Good leaders should do more work than the other group members. | ☐ |

Are YOU a successful leader?

The Successful Leadership Trust – our company specialises in training you to be a successful leader for whatever situation you're in.

A ...?

Almost nothing we do in this world is done in isolation. At work or at play, you'll find yourself in groups, working with other people: your team at work, a meeting with colleagues, your family, a holiday with friends, a group of students working together, a day out walking in the mountains, a group of neighbours wanting to make changes. It is now recognised that being able to work successfully with other people is one of the major keys to success, partly because we need to do it so often.

B ...?

In almost every situation where you're in a group, you will need a skilled leader. All groups need leaders and all successful groups have good leaders.

Groups without leaders or with weak leaders almost always break down. Members of a leaderless group often begin to feel dissatisfied and frustrated. Time is wasted and the tasks are not achieved. There are often arguments and tensions between people as there is nobody to keep the goals clear. Some personalities dominate and others disappear. Often group members begin not to come to meetings in order to avoid more disharmony.

C ...?

Some people are natural leaders. The celebrity chef, Antonio Carluccio says, 'True leaders are born and you can spot them in kitchens. They're people who combine toughness, fairness and humour.' Although a lot of people agree that there are some natural-born leaders, most people now recognise that leadership can also be taught. Our professional and experienced staff can train almost anyone how to be a

successful leader. Good leaders don't make people do things in a bossy, controlling way. You can learn how to involve everyone, encouraging the whole group to work towards a common goal.

D ...?

Our training courses use activities and techniques to develop a range of qualities which are necessary to be a good leader. Self-confidence is vital and being able to overcome your own fears about being a leader. Successful leaders also need to be calm and intelligent. They need to be able to work out good strategies and make sound judgements under pressure. Lastly, and probably most importantly, good leaders need to be sensitive, sociable and be able to get on with a wide range of people. Good leadership is essentially the ability to influence others and good leaders allow all members of the group to contribute.

