

Name:.....

Class:.....

Date:.....

## Worksheet

### Reading

**Task 1: You are going to read an article in which four graduates discuss going to university. For questions 1-10, choose from the graduates (A-D). The graduates may be chosen more than once. Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.**

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#### Which graduate

says people should be allowed to consider a range of options apart from university? **1** .....

says that some people are expected to make important decisions before they are ready? **2** .....

initially rejected something she was told? **3** .....

was unaware of the alternatives to university? **4** .....

says that the type of learning at university is different from that at other institutions? **5** .....

felt when she was a student that she might not be doing the right course? **6** .....

says that some people discover that what is studied at university is not useful in the workplace? **7** .....

was uncertain about her reasons for going to university? **8** .....

says graduates have an advantage when applying for jobs? **9** .....

was expected to go to university despite being a fairly average student at school? **10** .....

## Why go to university?

Four graduates talk about their experiences.

### A. Sonia

While I was doing my physics degree people would often say I was acquiring skills I'd be able to use in my future career, even if I didn't become a physicist. It sounded like nonsense to me: if I did another job in the end, what could be relevant about knowing what's inside an atom or how to operate a laser? It turns out they were referring to the wealth of other skills you pick up along the way. Communication and problem-solving are just two of these. In contrast to the way you may have been taught before, university teaches you to be innovative and to think for yourself. Going to university is about more than just studying though! I got to make friends from all over the world and they have proved to be useful work contacts.

### B. Jane

I went to university because it was the career path expected by school, parents and classmates (to an extent) and also because I didn't really have a clue about what other options were open to me. It's difficult to know how things would have turned out if I hadn't gone. I do know that the job I do 'requires' a degree to do it, though there must be alternative ways of developing these skills. The degree, like it or not, is the screening method used by large numbers of employers and as such opens certain doors. It's certainly harder to get into all sorts of careers without a degree. The debates about university education typically revolve around routes into employment, yet for many the degree is barely relevant to the work we end up doing later on. It gives access to a certain type of career but the actual degree can often be of little practical value.

### C. Lydia

There is a lot of pressure on teenagers to know exactly what they want to do with their lives. As a high-achieving student at school, the alternatives to university didn't really appeal to me. So I took up a place at a good university but ended up studying something I wasn't sure I was interested in. Some people know what they want to do from a young age, and for those people, going to university straight out of school may be a great idea. However, many of us are very unsure of our future ambitions aged 18, and should therefore be given as many choices as possible, rather than being pushed into a degree course. Many of my friends went to university straight from school.

### D. Bethany

I don't really remember making the decision to go to university. Everyone always assumed I would, even though I was never the most gifted academically. Someone asked me during my second year why I had gone, and I remember not being able to answer the question. Maybe it was the way I was raised? Maybe it was the school I went to? But university was the next step. I had a great time there, I must say. It's so much more than the place you go to get a degree. You learn so many life skills that I would urge anyone to give the idea some thought. Since graduation I've had a string of jobs. University is an excellent decision for some, and may provide the right qualifications to start a career. But for others, going straight into a job is just as appropriate.

**Task 2: For each question, choose the correct answer.**

### **Steve Cummins talks about starting his own business**

I'd worked for the company for almost ten years. They were good employers and the money wasn't that bad. They trusted in my ability and always left me to get on with my work. And I shared an office and met some lovely people, so I certainly wasn't unhappy there. But I just couldn't stop wondering how better my life would be if I had my own business and could make my own decisions. And so one year ago this week I left my job.

We don't have a spare room at home, so the kitchen table has been my office. It was difficult to begin with, but I soon got used to working in this way. I started by visiting small businesses in the area to see if I could interest them in my services. My proudest moment was making my first sale, a website for a local cake shop. Soon after, I started getting calls from other people asking for help with websites of their own and I found myself getting quite busy.

Of course, there have been challenges. I'm not earning quite as much as before but it's enough. I don't have to pay for transport to work anymore so that means I'm not spending quite so much. My biggest problem has been managing my time. There's no boss to tell me what to do and I'm sometimes a little lazy. I have this rule that work stops on a Friday afternoon so I can spend time with the family at weekends, so I need to pay more attention to this.

So, I wouldn't say it's been easy, but I don't regret my decision at all. I've enjoyed being my own boss and I'm quite hopeful about the future. During the next 12 months I plan to rent some office space as I'd like to be able to separate work from my home life. I'm going to need to earn more money to pay for it but I think it will help me to focus on my work.

**11** Why did Steve leaves his job?

- A. He didn't like attending meetings.
- B. He wanted more control of his work.
- C. He had a great idea for a product.
- D. He wanted to earn more money.

**12** Steve's greatest pleasure so far has been

- A. getting his first customer.
- B. not having to drive to work.
- C. having his own office.
- D. not having to answer the telephone.

**13** What does Steve say is the most difficult about working for himself?

- A. working hard enough
- B. not having a regular salary
- C. feeling lonely
- D. working at the weekend

**14** In the next year, Steve thinks

- A. he will get an office job.
- B. he will earn less money.
- C. he might not need to work in his kitchen.
- D. there will be much more competition.

**15** What would be a good introduction to this article?

A. In this article, Steve Cummins explains the problems of starting your own business and dealing with difficult customers.	B. Thinking of starting your own business? Steve Cummins did just that and now wishes he had done it sooner.
C. Steve Cummins made a big decision last year to leave his job. Read on to find out about the ups and downs of being your own boss.	D. Steve Cummins explains below how he dealt with not enjoying his job by leaving his employer and starting his own business.

**Task 3: For each question, write the correct answer.**

**Write one word for each gap.**

### **The Koala**

We're leaving Australia soon and we've just met that well-known symbol of Australian wildlife, the koala. I've always called them koala bears, but they are a member (16) ..... the marsupial family.

They are only two centimetres long when (17) ..... first come into the world and spend the first six months living in their mother's pouch before moving on to her back for a further six months.

They live on eucalyptus leaves, which they eat huge amounts of, up to 1 kilogram (18) ..... day. One benefit of this diet is that they rarely need to drink water as they get (19) ..... from these leaves. They can live for up to 15 years in the wild and as long as 20 years when cared for in zoos or nature reserves.

Unfortunately, as more of these eucalyptus trees (20) ..... cut down, we are seeing a fall in (21) ..... number of koalas.

**Task 4: For each question, choose the correct answer:**

### **Drawing**

Drawing is one of the earliest forms of communication and goes back much (22) ..... than the written word. However, despite its long history, it has not always been (23) ..... of as a form of art.

When paper became easily (24) ..... in the 14th century, the use of drawing in the arts increased. Some of the great artists of the Renaissance produced drawings of the highest (25) ..... and presented the human body in a more realistic way than ever before. However, it was often practised (26) ..... order to plan a larger painting and wasn't taken very seriously as a form of art.

Today, drawing is regarded as a (27) ..... skill and no less important than oil painting or other creative works.

- |    |            |           |           |             |
|----|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| 22 | A wider    | B further | C bigger  | D greater   |
| 23 | A taken    | B seen    | C thought | D made      |
| 24 | A free     | B open    | C around  | D available |
| 25 | A quality  | B type    | C kind    | D sort      |
| 26 | A for      | B in      | C on      | D with      |
| 27 | A valuable | B correct | C dear    | D likely    |



## Listening

**Task 1: For each question, write the correct answer in the gap. Write one or two words or a number or a date or a time.**

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You will hear a radio presenter called Erica talking about how we can help the environment.

### How to help the environment

Remember that when we're (1) ..... we always have the choice to buy something somewhere else.

Take (2) ..... with you the next time you go shopping.

Recycle unwanted things by giving them to (3) .....

See how you might be able to help with (4) ..... problems where you live.

Ask your friends to help you clear rubbish and litter from (5) ..... and streets in your area.

Try car-sharing with your (6) ..... if you work in the same area.