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From hobby to job



How many of us have thought, 'Why don't I just quit my day job and set up a business on my own?' For most of us it remains a dream, but for some who take the plunge, it's a dream come true. We look at four keen entrepreneurs who have turned their hobby into a new career.

Lifelong cyclist and fitness fanatic Marcus King has a small but successful business selling cyclewear. But the road to business hasn't been easy. Three years ago Marcus was made redundant from a construction company where he had worked for eight years. 'It came as a dreadful shock. I just didn't know what to do with myself. I felt completely let down and useless. To get out of the house, I used to go on long bike rides. Then the idea came to me – what cyclists need is well-designed, easy-to-wear tops and shorts. I chatted to some cyclist friends and they all agreed there was a gap in the market.' Now Marcus sells his range through his website and selected stores around the country. There are plans to add a range for children in the near future. 'I should have done it years ago. Making a living out of cycling is just the best thing.'

Ricardo Cerruti's life is music. Ever since he started DJ-ing at the school disco, he's been fascinated by it. 'I learnt how to mix in my own bedroom on a really basic little system. Very different from what I use now. When I was a teenager, I would DJ at friends' parties or even in the street, just for fun.' Ricardo has just come back from South America where he was working in the top clubs. 'I still have to pinch myself to believe it's true. I never really trained for this job. I guess it just comes naturally. And I don't have many formal qualifications, I dropped out of college in the first year, which I regret now. So I need help with the business side of things. I'm setting up my own record label just now and I hope to help young kids who are into music get a foot on the ladder.'

An interest in holistic therapies and a desire to help people lead Valeria Diaz and Helen Lee to set up Stressbusters – an on-site massage service for local businesses. 'After talking to family and friends, it was clear that half the local workforce was suffering from stress and tension. People work such long hours that it's hard for them to fit in an appointment in a clinic. So then we had the brainwave of taking the therapies to them, at their desks,' Helen explained. Valeria and Helen met at evening classes and hit it off straightaway. Valeria continued, 'We were both doing the courses just out of interest. We got the qualifications but never expected to make a living out of our hobby. But more and more people came to us complaining about being at a desk all day, so we decided to turn it into a business.' These businesswomen plan to take on more therapists once Stressbusters is established.

Glossary

cyclewear: clothes and accessories worn when cycling
to mix: to combine sounds from CDs or records to create different musical sounds
holistic therapies: treatments that take care of the body and the mind

D Look at these expressions in context. Choose the correct meaning.

1 take the plunge (lines 3–4)
   a take a bold and important step b take up a hobby
2 I have to pinch myself (line 29)
   a I can't believe what people say. b I can't believe it's really happening.
3 get a foot on the ladder (line 35)
   a make a start in business b work harder
4 had the brainwave (line 43)
   a had the idea b had the time
5 hit it off straightaway (line 45)
   a formed a business immediately b liked each other immediately

Learner tip

Don't panic when you come across new vocabulary! Remember to use the context around the word or phrase to help you understand. Also use the wider context of the situation and the relationships between people.

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VOCABULARY Football and life

A Choose the correct words.

A: What was the match like?

B: We [1] *thrashed / bashed* them 6–1. You should have been there. It was the most amazing final. We scored in the first minute – it went straight past the [2] *manager / goalkeeper* into the back of the net. Then the captain [3] *fouled / filed* Richards and he got sent [4] *out / off*, and we scored again from a free kick. Mind you, there was a bad moment when Mitchell tackled and their defender [5] *dropped / dived*, but the ref allowed play to go on. Then they scored their only goal. They had a couple more chances that hit a [6] *stick / post* and the [7] *bar / frame*, but then we got four more goals, one after the other. Heaven.

B Add each word in the box to the group of words it can go with.

substitute	disallowed
fixed	tackle
greedy	close
promoted	sack

1 Do you think the team / the sales rep / Lisa / will be ..... soon?
2 They had to ..... the captain / the original for a copy / some of the ingredients.
3 Unfortunately, the goal / access to the website / the expenses claim has been ..... .
4 He's such a ..... player / eater / person / child.
5 The decision was taken to ..... the manager / the whole team / the captain for poor performance.
6 It was a really ..... game / decision / contest / election.
7 It became apparent that the game / the election / the match / the result was ..... .
8 He tried hard to ..... the problem / the striker / the situation / the shortage.

Learner tip

Practise your English through your interests, e.g. listen to music and sports commentaries in English, join online clubs and forums with people in other countries, read sports/hobby magazines in English, etc.

GRAMMAR *should(n't) have, could(n't) have, would(n't) have*

A Write sentences for each situation. Use *should've / shouldn't have* and the verbs in the box.

give up the gym	apologise for swearing at the referee
miss so many sessions	take on so much work
set off earlier	score in the first half

1 We lost the game by just two points.
We .....
.....

2 I didn't go to many of my German classes.
I .....
.....

3 They missed the start of the play.
They .....
.....

4 I'm really out of shape.
I .....
.....

5 We didn't get any time off last summer.
We .....
.....

6 They were both sent off.
They .....
.....

B Match the comments (a–f) to the sentences you wrote in exercise A.

a Then they would never have been banned from the next match.
b Then I wouldn't have put on so much weight.
c Then we could've gone away for a couple of weeks.
d Then they wouldn't have disturbed everyone in their row of the theatre.
e Then I would've got by better when trying to make conversation on holiday.
f Then we might've won the tournament again this season.

C Choose the correct forms.

1 We didn't win, but it *would've / could've* been worse. We *could've / might never have* come last.
2 I *would've / wouldn't have* called you before, but my battery was dead. I *would've / should've* charged my mobile before I left.
3 We *should've / would've* loved to have come to the party but the twins were both ill.
4 I *would've / wouldn't have* normally complained but the waiter was just so rude.
5 I missed the flight, but it *should've / could've* been worse. It *could've / would've* been the last one.
6 I *would've / wouldn't have* bothered you but it seemed like an emergency.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DEVELOPING WRITING

A report – evaluating proposals

A Read the report on proposals to improve facilities in a residential area. Circle the five aspects that apply to report writing.

passive forms
long paragraphs
clear language and layout
essay format
headings
numbered points
descriptive language
fairly impersonal style

B Choose the correct words in the report.

C Rewrite the sentences using the words in brackets. Make any necessary changes but don't change the word in brackets.

1 The leisure centre will give the city more options (provide)
The leisure centre .....
.....

2 People could see a range of shows in a state-of-the-art theatre. (allow).
A state-of-the-art theatre .....
.....

3 The majority of people will like the sports centre. (appeal)
The sports centre .....
.....

4 It's a good proposal to build a theme park. (worth)
A theme park .....
.....

5 Building a new library would benefit the area. (improvement)
Building a new library .....
.....

6 You can have conferences at the leisure centre. (held)
Conferences .....
.....

D Write a report (150–190 words) based on the task below.

Your local council is planning to build either a library or a concert venue. Write a report, describing the benefits of each project and saying which one you would choose, and why.

Current situation

[1] *Actually / Currently*, the area has neither a sports centre [2] *not / nor* a cinema. The council has the budget to provide just one of these facilities. The [3] *reason / purpose* of this report is to assess the two proposals and decide which would be more beneficial.

A sports centre

This would [4] *benefit / provide* the area in the following ways:

1 It would [5] *let / allow* people of all ages to take part in a range of sporting activities in their free time.
2 The facilities could be used by schools and other organisations as part of the [6] *generally / overall* leisure provision in the area.
3 It would create a number of new jobs and [7] *bring / take* in valuable revenue to the area.

A cinema

This would offer the following [8] *pros / advantages*:

1 It would provide a family-friendly form of [9] *leisure / entertainment* and a cultural destination.
2 It could be used for providing training for students of media and film studies.
3 It would [10] *get / attract* other businesses to the area, including restaurants and shops.

Recommendation

While a cinema could offer benefits, it would only appeal [11] *for / to* certain sections of the community. In my opinion, the council should build a sports centre because it could offer more facilities to a bigger range of people. It would also provide greater job [12] *opportunities / vacancies*.



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GRAMMAR
Present perfect continuous / simple

A Match the sentence beginning to the correct ending, a or b.

1 I can't find my pen. What on earth
   a have I done with it?
   b have I been doing with it?
2 She should be good at German by now. She's
   a learnt it for years.
   b been learning it for years.
3 What's the delay with this train? We've
   a hung around for ages.
   b been hanging around for ages.
4 Can we try Cuba for a holiday? I've
   a been fancying that for years.
   b fancied that for years.
5 There's no more snow, so I don't know why they haven't
   a opened the road yet.
   b been opening the road yet.
6 Serve this lady next. She's the one who's
   a been waiting the longest.
   b waited the longest.

B Find and correct three tense or time expression mistakes in each conversation

1 A: I didn't know you were keen on horse-riding. How long do you do that?
   B: Since a year on and off. I'm not very good but I enjoy it. I've just been signing up for classes at the Miller Stables.
   A: You're kidding! I've been working there part time since March.
2 A: You're into windsurfing, aren't you? I never tried it in my life. What's it like?
   B: Amazing. I've already been going to the coast twice this month. Come with me next time if you like.
   A: I need to get back in shape first, I think. I've joined the gym and I've still lost a few kilos.
3 A: Sorry, have you waited long? My bus was late.
   B: No, don't worry. I've only already got here.
   A: OK, have you ever decided which film you want to see?
4 A: Where have you been? I've been trying to call you for all morning.
   B: Sorry, I've been at the dentist's since hours.
   A: Oh, are you OK?
   B: Yes, but my tooth has hurted since last night.

VOCABULARY Lucky escapes

Complete the conversations with a phrase from box A and box B. Sometimes there is more than one possible answer.

A		
	had a hairline fracture	sprained my knee
	passed out	twisted my ankle
	was paralysed from the waist down	banged her head

B		
	might've torn the ligaments	could've broken it
	might've knocked herself out	could've been killed
	could've drowned	might've broken it

1 A: I had to walk with a stick for a few days after I *sprained my knee*.
   B: I bet that was painful. But, it could've been worse. You *might have torn the ligaments*, falling on the ice like that.
2 A: She's pretty shaken up after falling in the river. She ..... and she didn't come round for a couple of minutes.
   B: I think she had a lucky escape. She .....
3 A: They X-rayed it and Alex ..... after he landed awkwardly on his leg.
   B: That sounds painful but maybe he had a lucky escape. He ..... completely.
4 A: They had a terrible accident. He ..... and they say he'll never walk again.
   B: That's so awful, but, if you think about it, I suppose he .....
5 A: Amy ..... really hard when she fell off her bike. And she wasn't wearing a helmet.
   B: Sorry to hear that but it could've been worse. She .....
6 A: I ..... when I slipped down the stairs. My whole foot is bandaged up.
   B: Poor thing. Still, it could've been worse. You .....

LISTENING

A 5.1 You are going to hear a sports programme about a relatively new sport. Listen and complete the information about touch rugby.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Touch rugby

Sport profile

Can be played in men's, women's and [1] ..... teams
Getting more popular [2] .....
Started in [3] ..... in the 1960s as a [4] ..... game for players of traditional game
Little equipment needed: just a ball, [5] ..... and a group of friends

Aim

Each team to score touchdowns and prevent [6] ..... from scoring Play similar to traditional game but less physical [7] ..... and exciting

Benefits

[8] ..... levels improve, quickly gets heart pumping and burns off excess weight develops [9] ....., ball skills and [10] ..... coordination

Player profile

Anybody: all shapes, sizes, and [11] ....., can play at own [12] .....

Reasons for taking up the sport

Simon: to get back in [13] .....
Angie: to find a sport she could do with [14] .....

PRONUNCIATION

Not pronouncing sounds

Language note not pronouncing sounds

Remember that some sounds are not pronounced in connected speech, especially when a final consonant in a word is followed by another consonant.
... if you don't mind me saying ...

A Mark where you think the sounds disappear in these sentences.

1 You can play in men's, women's and mixed teams.
2 It's similar to rugby but without the tackling.
3 We get people of all shapes, sizes, and ages.
4 It's so simple that after two to three games you get the basic skills.
5 It's up to you to keep playing and develop your game.
6 I used to travel a lot for work.
7 I couldn't find the time to exercise.
8 I wanted something my husband and I could do together.

B 5.2 Listen and check. Then practise saying the sentences.

Vocabulary Builder Quiz 5 (*OVB* pp18–20)

Try the *OVB* quiz for Unit 5. Write your answers in your notebook. Then check them and record your score.

A Which is the odd one out in each set?

1	sew	thread	post	cloth
2	dive	serve	double fault	forehand
3	fanatic	tackle	volunteer	substitute
4	foul	penalty	free kick	comic
5	paralysed	sprained	disallowed	twisted

B Which word do you need to complete the sentences in each set?

1 Wait! I need to get my ..... back. / He gets very short of ..... after walking. / How come you're out of ..... already?
2 How can I build up my .....? / You have a high level of physical ..... / Regular exercise maintains .....
3 What can I do to get in .....? / I'm so out of ..... after my accident. / Walking helps keep you in .....
4 I've been a bit of a ..... / She made such a ..... of herself. / They made a real ..... out of everyone.

C Complete the sentences with words that start with *self-*.

1 He's left his job and has gone .....
2 Staying in a hotel is too expensive so we always have a ..... holiday.
3 He's never had a guitar lesson. He's completely .....
4 She needs something to boost her confidence. She has really low .....
5 I'm so ..... I always go red when I meet people.
6 If you're nervous walking home at night, why don't you take up ..... classes?

D Which preposition can complete the sentences in each pair?

1 Why was he sent ..... after only 10 minutes?
I shouldn't have put ..... paying my credit card bill.
2 Why are you so stressed? Just chill .....
It was so hot I nearly passed .....
3 I bumped ..... the table and bruised my knee.
How did he get ..... politics?
4 It was hard to keep ..... with the others in the class.
They've been thinking of taking ..... Italian.

E Correct one letter in the underlined words.

1 Is there anything interesting at the craft fail?
2 We spent aged wondering around the market.
3 It was really clone but we scored in the last minute.
4 The trainer was arrested because the race had been filed.
5 Why did they give her the lack from her job?
6 The report of the browning hit the town very hard.

Score ___/25

Wait a couple of weeks and try the quiz again. Compare your scores.

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