

3 SPEAKING & LISTENING

- a Since 2001, the *Sunday Times* has been running an annual survey to find the 100 best companies in the UK to work for. Look at the criteria which they use to assess the companies and complete them with the headings.

Fair deal

Giving something back

Leadership

My company

My manager

My team

Personal growth

Well-being

- 1 My company : how staff feel about the organization they work for as opposed to the people they work with
 - 2 : how staff feel about the pressures of work and the balance between their work and home duties
 - 3 : how much companies are thought by their staff to contribute to the local community and society
 - 4 : to what extent staff feel they are stretched and challenged by their job
 - 5 : how staff feel towards their immediate boss
 - 6 : how employees feel about the head of the company and its senior managers
 - 7 : how staff feel about their immediate colleagues
 - 8 : how happy the workforce is with their pay and benefits
- b Which three criteria do you think are the most important when judging a company you are thinking of working for?
- c Now look at the photos and read about Skyscanner, a travel comparison website, one of the top-rated companies in last year's survey. Does it sound like a company you would like to work for? Why (not)?

b.

c.



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Who are they?

AS A KEEN SKIER who regularly escaped to the slopes, maths graduate Gareth Williams became frustrated with the tedious process of searching through a multitude of airline and travel-agency websites to find the cheapest flights. So he and two university friends set about creating a single website that could collect, collate, and compare prices for every commercial flight in the world. Launched in Edinburgh in 2001, Skyscanner, which also provides instant online comparisons for hotels and car hire, gets more than 60 million visitors a month and now operates worldwide – it also has offices in Singapore, Beijing, Miami, and Barcelona. No organization offers as many opportunities to learn and grow as this one does, say its employees. Skyscanner perks include a paid day off to do a social activity, and home-country working, where people who aren't native to the UK can spend up to three weeks a year working in their country of origin. As the staff represent more than 35 different nationalities, this is a particularly popular benefit.



Skyscanner statistics:

Male / female ratio	70:30
Average age	32
Earning £35,000+	36%



- d 13 Listen to an interview with Lisa Imlach, who works for Skyscanner. What is her position in the company? How positive is she about the company and her job on a scale of 1–5 (5 = very positive)? What makes you think so?

Glossary
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d.

- g What do you think of Skyscanner after listening to Lisa's interview? Are you more or less attracted to working there?



- e Now listen again and answer the questions.

- 1 How long has Lisa been at Skyscanner?
- 2 Why did she apply for a job there?
- 3 Where did she go the day after the interview, and where was she when she heard she'd got the job?
- 4 What three benefits does she mention about working for Skyscanner?
- 5 Which benefit does she value most highly and why?
- 6 What challenge does she say that the company faces?



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

g.

4 GRAMMAR discourse markers (1): linkers

...it very quickly becomes the norm for someone who works here, all these amazing benefits we have, _____ when you talk to someone else in another company, you suddenly think 'Wow, we're so lucky'.

- a Look at the extract from Lisa's interview. What do you think the missing word is? What kind of clause does it introduce?



a.

- b With a partner, put two linkers from the list into each column.

as consequently despite due to even though
in order to so as to therefore

a result	a reason	a purpose	a contrast
so	because	to	but

Watch the “teleclass” from minute 3.06 to minute 8.16 and then solve the following exercises →

a **Circle** the right linker.

Even though / Despite she's working really hard,
I don't think she'll be able to catch up.

- 1 We can't afford to have a holiday this year *as* / *so*
we've got an overdraft at the bank.
- 2 Could we rearrange my timetable *so that* / *in case*
I don't have so many classes on Fridays?
- 3 I got to the interview on time *due to* / *in spite of*
the fact that my train was late.
- 4 The restaurant chain has had a very difficult
year. *Nevertheless* / *As a result*, they haven't had to
close any of their restaurants.
- 5 He gets a good salary *though* / *since* the job itself
is quite monotonous.

b **Circle** the better option according to register.

Sales have increased over the last three months.
So / **Therefore** we will be taking on five new
employees.

- 1 I've been off work for the last three days *because*
of / *owing to* this nasty cough I've got.
- 2 The organization has severe financial problems, and
so / *consequently* half the staff have been laid off.
- 3 The company has reported declining sales this
year. *Nevertheless* / *But* they have so far managed
to avoid any staff cuts.
- 4 I stopped at a service station *to* / *in order to* fill up
with petrol.
- 5 I thought it was an amazing film. It was quite
depressing, *though* / *however*.
- 6 It has been announced that the last match of the
season has been cancelled *due to* / *because of* the
severe weather.