

English in Mind Second edition

Level 4 Unit 8

Worksheet

Why a productive gap year could help you choose a career

THE INDEPENDENT

Lead-in

1 Look at the title. What do you think the article will be about?

The quotation below is from the article. With a partner, discuss what you think it means.

'Getting a degree alone won't guarantee you a job. A gap year lets you test different careers.'

2 Imagine you are an employer and you see the following gap-year experiences on somebody's application form or CV. Consider which of these would be the most valuable way to prepare yourself for working life and then rank them (1–6).

working in a factory in the UK
 building drainage systems in an African village
 doing extra research for your degree subject

working on a farm in Australia
 lying on a beach in South America
 doing voluntary work in the UK

Now compare your choices with the rest of your group. Discuss your reasons and make some notes for class feedback.

Reading comprehension (1): scanning

3 The extracts below are from the article. See how quickly you can find this language in the text. See if you can underline every word or phrase in under one minute.

1 *'thousands of young professionals stuck in the wrong jobs'*2 *'work experience during a gap year ... would have helped their decision-making process'*3 *'Taking a gap year to "road test" an industry has few downsides'*4 *'Wanting to rush straight to university for the social life isn't a good enough reason to make a decision with a £20,000 price tag.'*

Now read the complete sentences. Are any of the author's views similar to those you expressed in Exercise 1?

Vocabulary (1): words in context

4 The list of words on the left below are printed in *italics* in the article. Find them and circle the best definition for each in this particular context from the options given on the right. The first one is done for you.1 *prospects*plans / expectations / possibilities2 *deflating*

increase possibility / confirm possibility / reduce possibility

3 *hindsight*

understanding afterwards / in confusion / during planning

4 *boasted*

to be embarrassed about / to be proud of / to be arrogant about

5 *stack*

some / a few / a lot

6 *attesting*

give proof of / deny / not show

7 *host*

none / a few / a lot

English in Mind Second edition

Level 4 Unit 8

Worksheet

Why a productive gap year could help you choose a career

THE INDEPENDENT

8 attainable

impossible to get / possible to apply for / possible to get

9 leap

make / jump / climb

10 priority

the next thing to do / the last thing to do / the most important thing to do

Reading comprehension (2): understanding detail

5 Look at the questions below and note down the correct answers. The first one is done for you.

- 1 What does Tom feel that some people hate? their jobs, their career path, life prospects, debt situation and the fact that all this happens before they are 30
- 2 How much may the decision you make when you have your results in your hand cost?
- 3 What was a realistic expectation for the journalism graduate?
- 4 When was the first time he saw a room of journalists?
- 5 Why has the 25- to 35-year-old age group created the fastest growing gap-year market?
- 6 What may have helped these people choose a more suitable career?
- 7 What encouraged Tom to invite Chris Page for an interview?
- 8 What advantages did Chris have on graduating?
- 9 Give an example of a job where having a specialist degree is essential?
- 10 When should taking a gap year to test jobs out become a priority?

Vocabulary (2): Idiomatic expressions

6 Find the words or phrases in the text which match the definitions below. The first one has been done for you.

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------|-------|
| 1 ruining dreams | <u>bursting</u> | <u>bubbles</u> | | |
| 2 pessimism | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3 getting promoted | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4 beat easily | _____ | <u>out</u> | _____ | _____ |
| 5 inexperienced | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 6 in direct competition with | <u>go</u> | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 7 the deciding or crucial factor | <u>the</u> | _____ | _____ | _____ |

English in Mind Second edition

Level 4 Unit 8

Worksheet

Why a productive gap year could help you choose a career

THE INDEPENDENT

Vocabulary (3): idiomatic expressions in use

7 Use your answers from Exercise 6 to complete the sentences below. You may need to change the form of some of the words. The first one has been done for you.

- 1 Manchester United are going head to head with Chelsea next week in the Premiership.
- 2 The chances of _____ at this company are good because the managing team is getting towards retirement age.
- 3 Sue's new dance routine _____ all her rivals _____ at the competition yesterday.
- 4 Paul's father is the voice of realism and feels it is important to _____ his son's _____ with sensible advice.
- 5 The papers are full of _____ because of the credit crunch.
- 6 Don't you think he's a bit too _____ to be taking on all this responsibility?
- 7 _____ is that if we don't work together, we won't pass the test.

Grammar (1): inversions

8 Look at the following sentence from the article.

'Had they taken time to see the job in action in the workplace, they might well have taken a bit more time to choose a career that suited them.'

Can you think of another way to begin the sentence? Rewrite the sentence below.

Now look at the conditional sentences below.

- 1 *Were you to help* me, I would be very happy.
- 2 *Had they* told me earlier, I would have picked them up in the car.
- 3 *Should he* come to see me, I will help him as much as possible.

Use these examples to help you complete the rules for using conditionals below. Fill in the gaps in the sentences with **first**, **second** or **third**.

- Rule 1: It is possible to give a _____ conditional sentence more emphasis by inverting 'were' or 'was' with the subject and following it with the infinitive of the main verb.
- Rule 2: It is possible to give a _____ conditional sentence more emphasis by inverting 'should' with the subject.
- Rule 3: It is possible to give a _____ conditional sentence more emphasis by inverting 'had' with the subject.

English in Mind Second edition

Level 4 Unit 8

Worksheet**Why a productive gap year could help you choose a career****THE**  **INDEPENDENT****Grammar (2): using different forms of inversion****9 Rephrase the following sentences using inversion to give them more emphasis. The first one is done for you.****1** If it rains, I'll take an umbrella.*Should it rain, I'll take an umbrella.***2** If they had sent that email before, I wouldn't have been so unhappy.**3** Sandra would come earlier if she finished her homework.**4** She wouldn't have won the Olympics if she hadn't met her coach when she was 11.**5** If we drove to London now, we could still catch the last performance of 'The Phantom of the Opera.'**6** You might find it in the cupboard if you look more carefully.**Discussion****10 Tom Griffiths is the founder of www.gapyear.com. Some of the site's information sections are listed below:**

- Find a job
- Study abroad
- Summer work with kids
- Travel Planning
- Volunteer and Eco Travel

Use these points to plan how you would like to spend a gap year in preparation for going onto the website to register and find the further information that you need. Discuss your ideas with those in your group.

Lesson Plan and Worksheet author: David Thomas

Editor: Jacqueline French.