

1 Grammar, Vocabulary, and Pronunciation

B

American
ENGLISH FILE 5

GRAMMAR

1 Underline the correct word(s).

Example: I love my job. However / In spite of, the commute is very difficult.

- 1 So / Because my bicycle was stolen, I had to walk to school.
- 2 I didn't study very much, and owing to / consequently, I didn't pass the test.
- 3 She had to break the news gently so that / so as not to upset her father.
- 4 He gave up running due to / since a knee injury.
- 5 I sold my car as a result / because I couldn't afford the gas.
- 6 We have an extra bottle of water in case / as we get lost.
- 7 We think the house will sell quickly. As a result / Nevertheless, we want to be sure it looks as good as possible when people come to see it.
- 8 I saw the entire movie, yet / therefore I can't remember anything about the story.

8

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

Example: Has Dana lived in Singapore since she was a child? (live)

- 1 We didn't have time to do it ourselves, so we _____ our bedroom _____ by a professional. (decorate)
- 2 Luis and Maria _____ married for 15 years and are very happy together. (be)
- 3 I can't believe Josie didn't call. I _____ for her for two hours. (wait)
- 4 _____ you _____ work late again tonight? (have to)
- 5 I _____ time to finish the project tonight. (not have)
- 6 How many guests _____ she _____ in her house right now? (have)

6

3 Does the bold word indicate *result*, *reason*, *purpose*, or *contrast*? Write your answer in the blank.

Example: **Despite** her confusion, the teacher continued on with the lesson. *contrast*

- 1 He spent the night working on his thesis; **therefore**, he wasn't able to join us for dinner. _____
- 2 I joined a gym **so** I can get into better shape. _____
- 3 **Even though** I didn't want to, I spent my evening doing laundry. _____
- 4 **Due to** the weather today, the game has been canceled. _____
- 5 I went to the party **despite the fact that** I didn't really want to be there. _____

5

VOCABULARY

4 Complete the words in the sentences.

Example: The **nuclear** family is made up of the mother, father, and children.

- 1 I guess there's a **s**_____ in the family closet, but I don't know what it is.
- 2 I have a close **r**_____ with my brother. We talk about once a week.
- 3 My mother was **b**_____ up in a large city by the ocean.
- 4 My grandparents, uncles, cousins, and so on are my **e**_____ family.
- 5 Last time we had a big family **g**_____ we had a really good time.
- 6 When my brother married my **s**_____ -in-law I was really happy, because she's my best friend.

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1 Grammar, Vocabulary, and Pronunciation

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American
ENGLISH FILE 55 Underline the correct word(s).

Example: I'd like to get a job / **profession** abroad.

- 1 I enjoy my job because the work is **monotonous** / **rewarding**.
- 2 My salary isn't high, but the **wages** / **benefits** are really good.
- 3 It felt good to leave my **comfort zone** / **own mind**, but it was also very challenging.
- 4 I recently had some **qualifications** / **training**, which will help me do my work more efficiently.
- 5 As an **employee** / **employer**, I expect the company I work for to treat me with respect.
- 6 Leo is a great boss because he's good at **motivating** / **demanding** people and making them want to work hard.
- 7 **Working** / **Staff** turnover is low because the pay is high.
- 8 I'm not sure I'd prefer a regular job to short-term **contracts** / **salary**.

8

PRONUNCIATION

7 Match the words with the same sound.

~~turnover~~ stuck speaking
challenge brother employee

Example: work turnover

- 1 salary _____
- 2 feeling _____, _____
- 3 gut _____, _____

5

8 Underline the stressed syllable.

Example: timetable

- 1 bonus
- 2 profession
- 3 employee
- 4 siblings
- 5 rewarding

5

6 Underline the odd word out.

Example: career position profession skills

- 1 nuclear stepbrother single-parent extended
- 2 motivating training rewarding challenging
- 3 skills training employer qualifications
- 4 grow up raise siblings bring up
- 5 great grandparent sibling black sheep stepbrother

5

Pronunciation total 10

Grammar, Vocabulary, and Pronunciation total 50

1 Reading and Writing **B**

READING

1 Read the article and check (✓) A, B, or C.

CREATING YOUR OWN JOB SATISFACTION

A lot of people think that job satisfaction is only for other people. They look with envy on people who love their jobs and who don't think of them as work. The idea of earning a living from something you really like doing only applies to a few very lucky people, they think. But this isn't so. It's not only people in the so-called "glamour professions," for example, who can get genuine job satisfaction. You don't have to be in the arts or a sports person to get enjoyment from what you do for a living. Even if you're in a boring job, it's quite possible to get some satisfaction from it.

The key to this is your attitude. You may think it's unlikely that you can derive much satisfaction from a dull job that doesn't require much thought and that involves a lot of routine procedures. But if you approach it with the right attitude, and put some effort in, you may be surprised at how enjoyable you can make it. Of course, if you just sit there telling yourself how boring your job is, you'll never get anything out of it. But if you set out to find ways of making it enjoyable, there's a good chance you'll manage to.

One thing you can do is to set yourself challenges. Think about what you can do for yourself to make your work a little bit more interesting. If you've got a repetitive job, set yourself some targets to meet and try to beat your previous records. Or use your initiative in other ways. Think about ways you could develop your career into more interesting areas – see how you could improve your skills by doing a course, for example, or look into new skills you could get that would stand you in good stead for the future.

For some people, it's not boredom that's the problem, it's the fact that their jobs involve a significant amount of unpleasantness. But if you keep telling yourself your job is horrible and there's nothing you can do about it, you'll get stuck in a rut and you'll never get out of it. Focus on developing a positive attitude and try to keep any negative thoughts about your job out of your mind. Keep a sense of perspective – if something's gone wrong on a particular day, decide whether it really matters or not. If it isn't actually all that important, don't dwell on it, let it go. Learn from it, and take an upbeat view of what's happened – you'll know how to avoid the problem in future, or what to do about it if it happens again.

Of course, you may reach the point where you feel totally trapped in a job. If this mindset starts to overwhelm you, check out the options you may have in the place where you work. Map out a plan for improving your situation there. Are

there other roles in the organization you could apply for? Could you ask to be given different tasks? Could you get a different kind of assignment or go to another department where your skills are required? Finding out there are other options will give you a sense of control over your own working life. Even if you have no job satisfaction right now, you'll feel better if you know that there is a realistic prospect of work that gives you a degree of it.

Expectations are another key ingredient in job satisfaction. Take a long hard look at what you really are capable of. Sometimes it's important to accept that you couldn't really do the much more interesting or high-powered job you aspire to. Try to be aware of your own strengths and weaknesses. Focus on the things you really are good at, rather than on things that, if you're really honest with yourself, you couldn't actually do. Make the most of your situation and feel good about what you can do, rather than feeling bad about what you can't do.

Work is a very important part of most people's lives and it's important to get at least some satisfaction from it. If you really dislike your time at work, the rest of your life is affected too, and you can easily get a negative outlook on life in general. It's in your own hands to avoid this. Even if you can't get the job of your dreams, you can take steps to create your own job satisfaction.

1 The writer's aim in the first paragraph is to _____.

- A correct a false belief ☐
 B distinguish between different kinds of work ☐
 C define the term "job satisfaction" ☐

2 In the second paragraph, the writer _____.

- A advises readers not to have unrealistic ideas about work ☐
 B warns readers against a certain attitude ☐
 C suggests to readers that most jobs are dull ☐

3 In the third paragraph, the writer emphasizes _____.

- A the need for people to motivate themselves ☐
 B a particular route to job satisfaction ☐
 C how easy it can be to progress in a career ☐

4 What is the writer's advice if something goes wrong?

- A Pretend that it didn't happen. ☐
 B Use the experience to your advantage. ☐
 C Don't think about it until later. ☐

1 Reading and Writing **B**

5 The writer uses the phrase “stuck in a rut” to refer to _____.

- A a situation that won't improve ☐
 B the bad behavior of others ☐
 C the danger of being too sensitive ☐

6 The writer says that people who feel “trapped” in a job should consider _____.

- A discussing their unhappiness with managers ☐
 B moving to a different company or organization ☐
 C changing the kind of work they do ☐

7 The writer says that you will feel better about your working life if you _____.

- A think that some job satisfaction is possible in the future
 B choose a particular career option for the future ☐
 C stop aiming for job satisfaction for a while ☐

8 What does the writer say about expectations of work?

- A Too many people have unrealistic ones. ☐
 B They should be based on real ability. ☐
 C They may change as time passes. ☐

9 In the final paragraph, the writer says that _____.

- A lack of job satisfaction has serious consequences for people ☐
 B a negative attitude to life leads to a negative attitude to work ☐
 C there is more to life than job satisfaction ☐

10 Which of the following best sums up the writer's view in the text as a whole?

- A Some people find it easier to get job satisfaction than others. ☐
 B Everyone can get a certain amount of job satisfaction. ☐
 C Job satisfaction is the most important issue in the workplace today. ☐

Reading total 10

WRITING

You have decided to apply for the position advertised below. Write approximately 250 words in a cover letter or email.

Is this for you?

We are looking for responsible, experienced people (individuals or couples) of any age to “work” as house-sitters in different European countries for varying lengths of time. All you need to do is take care of someone's house, pets, and garden while they are away on business or on holiday.

You won't earn any money but your accommodation is free. The minimum length of stay is one week so you can move from place to place.

Interested? Send an email or letter and CV to Bruce Matthews at “mailto:housesit@talknet.com” or post it to...

Writing total 10

Reading and Writing total 20

1 Listening and Speaking **B**

LISTENING

- 1 Listen to five people talking about the disadvantages of various jobs. Match the speakers (1–5) to the disadvantages of the job that they mention (A–H).

Speaker 1 ☐Speaker 2 ☐Speaker 3 ☐Speaker 4 ☐Speaker 5 ☐

A lack of job security

B the possibility of making a serious mistake

C having to work at inconvenient times

D bad treatment from employers

E having to work in unpleasant physical conditions

F other people's low opinion of the job

G having to be dishonest

H the need to cooperate with colleagues

☐ 5

- 2 Listen to two friends discussing an article about personality types. Then check (✓) A, B, or C.

- 1 The two speakers agree that _____.

A the man should not consider himself a "go-getter" ☐B other people like the man's attitude and behavior ☐C the man does not react well to pressure ☐

- 2 The man doesn't agree that he _____.

A is good at organizing other people ☐B makes too little effort ☐C annoys other people ☐

- 3 What do the two speakers agree on the subject of discussions?

A The man often changes his view during them. ☐B The man likes it when people disagree with him. ☐C The man always wants to make other people agree with him. ☐

- 4 The woman agrees that she _____.

A is regarded as unreliable by many people ☐B frequently changes her plans ☐C has a relaxed attitude to life ☐

- 5 The man says that one characteristic of "performers" is that they _____.

A think too much about criticism

B expect too much of other people

C are too loyal to other people

☐ 5Listening total ☐ 10

SPEAKING

Student A

- 1 Ask your partner these questions.

1 Which person has inspired you the most?

2 What kind of work would give you job satisfaction?

3 Which three adjectives best describe your personality?

4 When you argue with friends or family, what do you argue about?

5 Who is the black sheep in your family?

- 2 Now answer your partner's questions.

- 3 Now talk about one of these statements, saying if you agree or disagree. Give reasons.

1 "It is not possible to be both successful and happy."

2 "Most people's personalities do not change as they get older."

3 "All families have skeletons in their closets."

- 4 Now listen to your partner. Do you agree with him/ her?

Speaking total ☐ 15Listening and Speaking total ☐ 25

1 Listening and Speaking B**Student B**

- 1 Answer your partner's questions.
- 2 Now ask your partner these questions.
 - 1 What is your main ambition?
 - 2 Which three adjectives describe personalities that you particularly dislike?
 - 3 Which personal characteristics have you inherited from your parents?
 - 4 What do you think would be a motivating career for you?
 - 5 Who wears the pants in your family?
- 3 Listen to your partner. Do you agree with him/her?
- 4 Now talk about one of these statements, saying if you agree or disagree. Give reasons.
 - 1 "Most people are unhappy in their jobs."
 - 2 "It is not possible for people to be nice to each other all the time."
 - 3 "Members of my extended family live all over the world."

Speaking total		15
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Listening and Speaking total		25
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