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Nine to five

Vocabulary and structure

1 Complete the table with the correct form of the words.

Verb	Noun	Adjective
deduct	_____	-
_____	_____	detached
revert	_____	-
-	transition	_____
sympathize	_____	_____
_____	-	thriving
calculate	_____	_____ / _____
expect	_____	_____
support	_____	_____
_____	_____	demanding

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in Activity 1.

- 1 It's well known that employees _____ and their work improves when department managers take a positive interest in their work.
- 2 Anna found that people were very _____ after she was turned down for the job she wanted.
- 3 After the _____ of the term's university fees from his bank account, Michael found that he did not have as much money left as he had thought.
- 4 Our task is to guarantee that there will be no _____ to the past totalitarian regime.
- 5 Fortunately, my financial _____ as to whether I had enough money to live on for the next three months were correct.
- 6 When Maria arrived home from the interview with a big smile on her face, everyone looked at her _____, feeling sure she had got the job.
- 7 Young people can find the _____ period between leaving university and getting a job quite difficult.

3 Write the compound nouns which mean:

- 1 a bill for the household _____
- 2 a consultation about one's career _____
- 3 a presence that is male _____
- 4 a bank that carries out investments _____
- 5 a setback concerning a job _____
- 6 tax on your income _____
- 7 the business connected with finance _____
- 8 a graduate who studied physics _____
- 9 a queue for a bus _____

4 Write the noun phrases which mean:

- 1 a market which is changing rapidly _____
- 2 a career that has the potential to be rewarding _____
- 3 a project that has been planned very carefully _____
- 4 a relationship that is very demanding on your emotions _____
- 5 an invention that has been developed recently _____
- 6 an investment that may be very risky financially _____
- 7 candidates who have been educated to a high level _____
- 8 a company that is organized in an efficient manner _____

5 Complete the paragraph with the correct form of the words and expressions in the box.

contact	demand	end up	fortunate	in the long run
nag	setback	tricky	turn down	

After my graduation I expected to find a job without much difficulty, and it was quite a(n) (1) _____ when I realized that it was going to be very hard to find work that paid well, was interesting and had a good career path. Like most of my friends, I lounged around at home for a while, but eventually I got so tired of my parents (2) _____ me about contributing money towards rent and food that I got a job, stacking goods on shelves in the local supermarket. The job was not very (3) _____ and I was terrified that I would (4) _____ doing this for the rest of my life. But after six weeks I was approached by the manageress, who offered me a place on a management training programme. It was a(n) (5) _____ decision, but after discussing things with my parents I (6) _____ the offer since, although it would lead to a good position, (7) _____ it was not what I wanted to do. (8) _____, an uncle of mine had (9) _____ in the publishing world and he got me an interview for a job as an editor. They liked me, and although the salary isn't very good, I'm happy because I'm doing something I enjoy.

6 Replace the underlined words with suitable words and expressions from the passage *If you ask me*.

- 1 The most exciting moment of the concert was when they set off fireworks.
- 2 They had to repay the money they had borrowed from the bank.
- 3 The children were doing very well in their new school.
- 4 My dad bet money on horse racing and lost every penny.
- 5 They collected some money so that she could start a business.
- 6 They charged me ten per cent yearly interest.

7 Rewrite the sentences using *try as ... might*.

- 1 I tried very hard to find some information about it for my essay, but I couldn't find any.

- 2 He tried very hard to unlock the door, but he just couldn't manage it.

- 3 She tried very hard to find a solution to the problem, but it was impossible.

- 4 We tried very hard to raise enough money for the project, but we didn't have enough.

- 5 You can try as hard as you like, but you'll never succeed in life without a good education.

8 Rewrite the sentences using *given that ...*

- 1 I think I'll put some more money into the same company because my investment has done so well.

- 2 He thinks it won't be hard for him to get a job when his parents have so many contacts.

- 3 It's surprising that he's grown up to be so hard-working when his parents have always been so soft with him.

4 It's probably a good idea to look for work abroad because there are so few jobs available at present.

5 Since he left school without any qualifications, he's doing very well indeed.

9 Rewrite the sentences using clauses introduced by *than*.

1 Friends are often good at giving support. Parents often aren't as good.

2 Many people feel that bankers earn too much money. It's not right they earn so much money while other people don't.

3 My parents give me too much advice about how to get a job. It isn't helpful.

4 My landlord is sympathetic about my problems. My bank manager isn't as sympathetic.

5 My niece is quite cheerful about being unemployed. My nephew isn't as cheerful.

6 We feel that your résumé gives too much information. A lot of it isn't relevant.

Reading

1 Read the passage *Looking for a job after university? First, get off the sofa* and check (✓) the true statements.

- 1 In the past, when parents watched their children receiving their degree, they knew they would have to continue to support them.
- 2 Parents nag their sons and daughters to look for work.
- 3 The Civil Service interviewers felt that Jack was not intelligent enough.
- 4 Jack's parents find it difficult to give him advice.
- 5 If your son or daughter does badly at a job interview, Lindenfield believes you shouldn't be too soft.

- 6 Boys tend to find jobs faster than girls.
- 7 Lindenfield says that bar work is helpful because you meet people who might be useful.
- 8 Lindenfield says that shelf-stacking is a good job and people should continue doing it.

2 Arrange the sentences in the paragraphs from the passage *If you ask me* in the order they appear.

1

- My dad wasn't around most of the time, and when he was, he didn't have any money.
- Actually, I had my eye on the course at the London School of Economics (LSE).
- I mean, I wasn't a dropout and I knew I'd have to some day.
- I kind of understand it, and not just because my degree is in economics.
- He'd spent it gambling on the dogs or down the pub.
- But given that I'd got a good degree, I thought I'd like to go on to get my master's.
- I didn't really want to go out to work just yet.
- Top school, very good for my CV.
- She'd worked hard for 15 years to give me an education.
- So it came to the point when I just agreed with Mum, and bowed myself towards the inevitable.
- According to any number of people "life's not a picnic", "there's no such thing as a free lunch".
- But I talked to my mum about it, and she said she couldn't afford to support me any more.

2

- He also seemed to know everyone, and greeted the regulars by name, getting their drinks ready with the question, "The usual today, is it?"
- So I went up to him and asked him whether there was a job for me.
- Mike the landlord was at the bar, pouring pints with one hand, making sandwiches with the other, and washing the glasses all at the same time – it's true, he really did seem to have three hands.
- Go anywhere you like in London and there's usually a good pub.
- The day I realized no one in the city was going to offer me a job, I went into The Salisbury on Leadenhall Street for a drink and something to eat.
- I thought he looked kind of cool – he was doing what he did best, serving thirsty clients, and no one did it better.

3

- He sympathized with me.
- "This is a loan for you to set up your business."

- I talked to him about ... well, about pretty well everything, money, the master's, my birthday, the lot.
- Remember: The Salisbury is right in the heart of the City, so all the customers were in banking or insurance or the stock market.
- "But I think you will."
- [a] Later that week, Tony came in as usual and sat down at the bar.
- "And if you can't, too bad, that's the finance business for you."
- Next day he turned up with cheques to the value of £20,000.
- Tony got up from his stool, and went over to talk to some of the others.
- "The only collateral you have is my trust in you that one day, you'll pay us back – if you can."
- "What's wrong with you? Where's that smile gone today?"

Now look at the passage and check your answers.

3 Read the passage.

Success without studying

There's a day in late summer when newspapers can reliably be expected to display front-page photos of jubilant 18-year-olds clutching a sheet of paper and dancing for joy. The reason? A-level exam results, the narrow gate that has to be passed through in order to gain admittance to that most sacred of educational institutions, university. Bitter are the tears shed should the miserable student fail to gain the grades required, a university degree being the essential requirement for the successful career that most people aspire to.

Or so the education world would have us believe. But is it really true? The fact is there are plenty of individuals who have achieved great success without ever going to university. Richard Branson, one of Britain's most successful entrepreneurs, is a well-known example of someone who never had any intention of doing so. At the tender age of 16, while still at school, Branson started a student magazine which made him a handsome profit. At 20, while many of his peers were in their second year at university, Branson founded a mail-order retail record company and soon afterwards opened a record shop. At 22, when others of the same age were starting their first job, Branson had started a record company and by 30 he was the CEO of one of the world's top six record companies.

Taking another example from a very different sphere, John Major, British Prime Minister from 1990 to 1997, left school at 16 with only three exam qualifications. He was then turned down when he applied for a job as a bus conductor! After a variety of low-paid jobs, Major took a correspondence course in banking at which he showed such aptitude that he was taken on at a bank as an executive and was quickly promoted. Interested in politics from an early age, by the age of 21 Major was professionally involved and was elected to Parliament at the age of 37.

What both these very different men have in common is a passionate interest from a young age in a particular area of activity. In Branson's case it was the business of making money while with Major it was politics. Both men had the ambition, energy, brains and talent to achieve their dreams and they did not need a university degree in order to do so. The message is clear – while a good university degree is undoubtedly helpful in one's career, there is no need to despair should you fail to get in. Instead, work hard and follow your dream!

Now complete each sentence with no more than nine words.

- 1 The people in the photos are dancing for joy because _____.
- 2 The writer questions the general belief that _____.
- 3 The passage describes the careers of two men who _____.
- 4 Branson first started making money when _____.
- 5 While in his 20s Branson became very rich from _____.
- 6 John Major did not do well _____, but showed that he was very clever when he _____.
- 7 Branson was passionately interested in _____ while Major _____.
- 8 If you don't get into university, the writer's advice is to find something you're interested in, _____ and _____.

4 Answer the questions about the words and expressions.

- 1 If you are *jubilant*, are you (a) very happy, or (b) very disappointed?
- 2 If something is *sacred*, is it (a) so important that it should not be criticized, or (b) very old?
- 3 If you *aspire to* something, do you (a) enjoy doing it, or (b) want to achieve it?
- 4 If you are an *entrepreneur*, are you (a) a politician, or (b) a businessperson?
- 5 If you are at a *tender age*, are you (a) young, or (b) old?
- 6 If you make a *handsome profit*, do you (a) make a lot of money, or (b) make a little money by selling something?
- 7 Are your *peers* (a) people the same age as you, or (b) friends?
- 8 Does *sphere* mean (a) a type of person, or (b) an area of activity?
- 9 If you have *aptitude*, do you have (a) interest in something, or (b) a natural ability?

5 Read the passage.

A career change for the better

Only three years ago 41-year-old Lewis Winfield had a high-powered job in an investment bank, earning hundreds of thousands a year. With two children at top London schools and a house in the West End, he and his wife Jackie, a top divorce lawyer, led an often hectic social life involving a great deal of entertaining of clients and trips to the opera and theatre. But the couple did not live beyond their means and from the outside one would have said that they were extremely fortunate.

Surprisingly, perhaps, the background of both Lewis and Jackie was anything but privileged, both having been brought up on rough inner-city council estates where most children could expect to end up unemployed. But despite attending a deadend school, Lewis was lucky enough to encounter a maths teacher who, recognizing his ability, gave him extra help, enabling him to get a scholarship to Oxford, which set him on the road to success.

However, even while making a mint at the bank Lewis felt unable to forget his background and his less fortunate childhood friends, who, most unusually for someone in his position, he still saw from time to time. Today he describes how at the age of 41 he felt so haunted by life's unfairness that he felt he could no longer justify what he described as his "absurdly inflated pay cheque". Backed by Jackie, his wife, Lewis applied for a post working as the financial manager for a well-known charity that helped disadvantaged children. After a series of lengthy interviews, to his astonishment, Lewis was offered the job and today he can be found behind a desk in an office, that, while not dilapidated, is nothing like the impressive surroundings he was used to working in.

"I'm paid a fraction of what I used to get, but it's the best move I've ever made in my life," Lewis tells anyone willing to listen. "Whereas at the bank I always had the uneasy feeling my money was completely undeserved, here I'm certain I'm doing something worthwhile – I know where every penny the charity brings in goes. That's my job. We get reports on the families we help and the work we do makes a real difference in children's lives. I feel comfortable with who I am. It's a huge relief."

Asked what his regrets are for the life he left behind, Lewis admits to missing the excitement that working in an investment bank generates. "There was a definite buzz around. But that's it. Nothing else." Lewis Winfield, a man at ease with his conscience.

Now choose the best answer to the questions.

- 1 What kind of life did Lewis and his wife seem to have three years ago?
 - (a) A life in which they spent more money than they had.
 - (b) A life which was mostly spent with their family when not working.
 - (c) A good life but with some problems at work.
 - (d) A privileged life.

- 2 Why was it rather surprising that Lewis had such a high-powered job?
 - (a) Because Lewis did not have much talent as most of his classmates.
 - (b) Because Lewis did not do well at school.
 - (c) Because Lewis did not go to university.
 - (d) Because Lewis was brought up in an area where children did not receive a good education.
- 3 Why did Lewis change his job?
 - (a) Because he felt he had too much responsibility.
 - (b) Because he wanted to help others who were not as lucky as him.
 - (c) Because he wanted to help his childhood friends.
 - (d) Because he did not know what to do with his money.
- 4 What kind of job did Lewis take?
 - (a) A job looking after money for a children's charity.
 - (b) A job working with children who have difficult lives.
 - (c) A job with a charity in which he writes reports on disadvantaged children.
 - (d) A job with a charity that does not have much money.
- 5 What does Lewis feel now about his previous job?
 - (a) There are many things he misses, but he wouldn't change his present job.
 - (b) He misses the lively atmosphere.
 - (c) He misses it and would like to return to it.
 - (d) He does not like his previous job at all.

6 Match the words and expressions in the box with their definitions.

at ease	buzz	dilapidated	haunt	hectic
high-powered	inflated	live beyond one's means		
make a mint	privileged			

- 1 to spend more money than you have
- 2 confident and relaxed
- 3 old and in bad condition
- 4 to make a large amount of money
- 5 important and powerful in a company or organization
- 6 a lively, positive feeling among a group of people or in a particular place
- 7 having advantages and opportunities that other people do not have, because you have a lot of money or high social status
- 8 full of busy activity
- 9 higher than it should be
- 10 to make someone worry or to make them sad

Integrated skills training

1 Complete the paragraph with the correct form of the words in the box.

clutch	commit	employ	enthusiastic	proceed
productive	resolve	set	slump	

After four months of (1) _____, during which time I spent far too much time at home (2) _____ in front of the telly, and after applying for at least 30 jobs and not even getting an interview for half of them, I finally found an IT company, which, while taking me on at the lowest level, had agreed to train me at the same time. I couldn't have been more pleased, as this meant I could move out of home at last, something I had been longing to do as my mother had recently started nagging me in what I felt was a very (3) _____ way. I arrived at the office on the first day of my new job, full of excitement, (4) _____ a briefcase bought in a street market and wearing a(n) (5) _____ of new clothes chosen by my girlfriend. I was shown to my desk by a young man of about my age who (6) _____ to fill me in on my duties. His first words to me were "Welcome to the daily grind!" and it was clear from his whole attitude that he was (7) _____ about his work. As I sat down at my desk, I (8) _____ to be different. I was going to (9) _____ myself completely to this job and set myself on the road to success!

2 Use the words to make complete sentences. You may need to make other changes.

1 as / summer break / come to a close / and / students / across the country / prepare for / start / new term / you / find / graduate son / still / spend / days / slump / television

2 more than / 650,000 students / leave / university / this summer / most / these financially testing times / no idea / do next

3 I / pass / exam / but / at the interviews / they / accuse / me / be / "too detached" / talk / language / "too technocratic" / I / not think / possible / but / obviously / it is

4 she / insist / he / try / get / job / but / work / full-time / leave / school / herself / she / her husband / find / tricky / advise / him / how to proceed

- 5 Lindenfield / who / find / first / job / aerial photographic assistant / through / bar work / say / great / networking opportunity

Now look at the passage *Looking for a job after university? First, get off the sofa* and check your answers.

3 Rewrite the sentences including the words given.

- 1 When you are unemployed it is important to remember that you are just as good as those who are in work and that your situation is only temporary.
What _____ is that you are worth _____ and that _____ change.
- 2 If I hadn't taken a job working behind the bar, I would never have met Tony and been able to fulfil my dream.
Had _____, I wouldn't _____, who _____.
- 3 Most students leaving university at the moment face a situation in which the likelihood that they will find a job immediately is not high.
The situation _____ is that it is unlikely _____.
- 4 It's generally believed that Michael turned down the offer of a university place in order to start a small business.
Michael is said _____ the opportunity _____ set up _____.
- 5 Unfortunately, the number of students who are dropping out of university is growing and researchers are trying to understand the reason for this.
It is _____ a growing _____ why.

4 Translate the passage into Chinese.

A new law on the right to request flexible working has taken effect in the UK. All employees have the right to work flexibly provided that they have worked for their employer for 26 weeks continuously at the date the application is made. According to the latest research, flexible working practices boost production, improve work-life balance and reduce stress among business workers. Findings indicate that employee productivity peaks at the start and end of the day. Most of the work done at peak times is heads-down, quiet, concentrated work, like reading, thinking and corresponding. We would be more productive if we could work from home during these peak periods and apply the time saved by avoiding rush-hour commutes to our workday. The so-called "idea economy" is eroding the traditional model of a nine-to-five, Monday-through-Friday work week. Because the idea economy is all about innovation, companies must find a way to offer the flexibility that will attract,

acknowledge and reward the innovators who get a great idea after midnight or in their morning shower, and at the same time provide spaces that support the ideas that emerge when people come together.

5 Translate the passage into English.

数据显示，近年来在华外国留学生呈迅速增加的趋势，近半数人在攻读学位。与中国留学生在国外主修理工科学位形成鲜明对比，来华留学生大多数主修文科专业，法律、汉语、经济是他们的首选。虽然自 2010 年以来，中国已成为世界上招收国际学生最多的国家之一，但在中国的在校大学生中，留学生只占约 1.6%，低于世界平均水平。但是，随着中国经济的进一步发展，我们相信，未来来华的留学生会越来越多。
