

Lesson 7

JOBS AND CAREERS

A. READING

General Comprehension

The following text introduces the topic of job and career. Look at the way it is constructed. Then look at the following questions and read through the text quickly to find the answers. Remember, you do not have to understand every word in order to answer the questions.

1. What is a job?
2. What is a career?
3. What is the relationship between a job and a career?
4. What is a sacrifice?
5. What are career goals?

The text



If you want to advance in your career, you will have to make some careful decisions about which jobs you take. Evaluate a job offer for the value it has to your career. It may mean sacrifices at first. You may have to move to a different region or a different country to get a job that is right for you. You may have to work late hours, at least temporarily. You might even have to take a lower salary for a job that offers you the experience that you need. But you should never accept a job if it is not related to your career goals.

Accepting a job that is not within your career path will not give you the training, experience, and satisfaction you need or want. You will find yourself frustrated in such a position and you consequently will not perform your best. This will have an effect on the people around you, who will not feel as if you are being part of the team. The best advice is to think carefully before you accept any position and make sure the job is one you want to have.

Detailed Comprehension

Read carefully through the text, looking up anything you do not understand. Then answer the following questions.

1. What kinds of decisions will you have to make in order to advance in your career?
2. What is the most significant factor in evaluating a job?
3. What sacrifices for a valuable job are mentioned in the text?
4. Why may people have to move to a different place?
5. What kind of job should you never accept?
6. Why are people sometimes willing to take lower salaries?
7. What is wrong with taking a job outside your career path?
8. Why is it important to choose a job within your career path?
9. What is frustration likely to result in?
10. What is the author's best advice?

B. VOCABULARY

Words Related to the World of Work

The above text talks about jobs and careers. Are you familiar with words connected with work in general? You probably already know many of them. Some job-titles are found in a wide range of different work places. Look at the following examples and check the general meanings in a dictionary.

boss	manager	executive
secretary	skilled worker	unskilled worker
receptionist	safety officer	director
security officer	union official	economist
personnel officer	sales assistant	adviser
education officer	research worker	supervisor
public relations officer	administrator	labourer

Here are some **professions** (jobs that require considerable training and/or qualifications) and **trades** (skilled manual jobs requiring on-the-job and other training)

lawyer	dentist	hairdresser	mechanic
farmer	vet	librarian	psychotherapist
child-minder	police officer	accountant	engineer
firefighter	civil servant	tailor/dressmaker	architect
designer	builder	carpenter	plumber
scientist	chef	priest	driver

Exercise

Which of the job-titles would best describe the following?

1. The person who represents the workers' interests in disputes with the management in a factory.
2. A person who has a high (but not the highest) position in a company and whose job is to make important decisions.
3. An important person in a company who sits on the Board.
4. A worker whose job requires no special training.
5. A person generally in charge of the day-to-day administration in a company.
6. A person who makes sure there are no risks of accidents from machinery, etc.
7. A person whose job is to keep an eye on the day-to-day work of other workers.
8. A person who does hard physical work.
9. The person who handles applications for vacant posts.
10. The person who gives out information to the press for a company.

C. GRAMMAR

Noun Phrases

A noun can be expanded into a noun phrase by adding a word or group of words before it. Such a word is called a **pre-modifier** or just **modifier**. It is called a pre-modifier because it is placed before the noun acting as the headword of the phrase. It may give more information about a particular noun, identify it or describe it in more detail.

A noun can also be expanded into a noun phrase by adding a word or group of words after it. Such a word is used to add further information about the noun, or the headword, referred to. It is called a **post-modifier** because it is placed after the noun. It is also called a **qualifier**. A post modifier or qualifier can then be defined as any word or group of words after a headword (a noun) and is part of the noun phrase. It can also qualify an indefinite pronoun and 'those'.

A noun phrase can have both modifiers and qualifiers simultaneously. We have to pay attention to the possible combinations of both. When a noun is added with a modifier and/or a qualifier, the resulting construction is a noun phrase. It is a phrase (group of words) that has a noun as the head of the phrase. This is commonly called the **head word** of the phrase.

Modifiers

There are several words that can function as modifiers in noun phrases. They are articles (*a, an, the*), possessive adjectives (*my, his, her*), descriptive adjectives (*careful, excellent, happy*) demonstrative adjectives (*this, that, these, those*), quantifiers (*one, two, three, first, second, third, some, much, many*), present participles (*waiting, running, rising*), past participles (*broken, stolen, shared*) and classifying nouns (*car, ghost, village*). It is possible to use some types of modifier in a noun phrase.

1. **Articles and Deictics**

a man
an elephant

the doctor
many students

2. **Possessive Adjectives**

your comments
their problems

3. **Descriptive Adjectives**

a new idea
many good remarks

4. **Demonstrative Adjectives**

that meeting
those new workers

5. **Quantifiers**

two boys
several young girls

6. **Present Participles ('-ing' form verbs)**

their speeding cars
rising stars

7. **Past Participles ('-ed' form verbs)**

broken windows *car factories*
several used books *ghost stories*

Exercise 1

Identify the *head word* and the *modifiers* of the following noun phrases.

1. a response
2. a consumer's desire
3. our personal scale
4. essential commodities
5. those medical expenses
6. many non-essential commodities
7. the special furniture sales
8. their true important basic food values
9. valuable old traditional Javanese philosophy
10. our scale of preferences

Exercise 2

Copy out all the noun phrases in the following sentences and identify their *head words* and *modifiers*. (You must be able to find 10 noun phrases)

The bananas are typical perishable goods. By “perishable” we mean unstoreable goods. Most food stuffs are in the perishable category. These goods are offered for cheap sales as quickly as possible, so the of perishable supply and the perishable stock usually have equal quantity.

Exercise 3

Now, rewrite the following sentences, placing the modifiers and qualifiers in brackets in correct positions. The headwords are printed bold.

Example: That **book** is mine. (on the table, English)
 That English **book** on the table is mine.

1. The **lecture** is very interesting. (evening, on life in Tibet)
2. The **salesman** sold a **car** to John. (used, who waited on you)
3. Jim has read **books**. (many, on photography)
4. The **question** was difficult (examination, third)
5. The **people** enjoyed the concert. (few, who came)
6. Two **knives** are sharp. (steel, those, that are in the drawer)
7. Mr Black bought a **suit** yesterday. (grey, flannel)
8. The women wore **dresses** to the opera. (new, their, evening)
9. Yesterday I met **people**. (interesting, several, who work in television)
10. The **men** are **officers**. (wearing the uniforms, army, Australian)