

PRACTICAL CASE

PART A - LISTENING

1. Listen to a person talking about the job he would love to do and one he would hate and answer the questions:

1.- What jobs does he mention?

Travel writer and worker on a production line.

2.- Why does he think he would be good at the first job?

He is sociable, he can write, he is good at living out of a suitcase.

3.- What does he think might be the downside?

If you are sent somewhere where nothing much has happened and you have nothing to say, but you have to write a book about it.

4.- Why does he think he would hate the second job?

Because you don't have to use your mind (no mental input) and it's very repetitive.

5.- Has he done this kind of work? Why didn't he like it?

Yes, he once worked in a plastics factory. He didn't like not seeing daylight, the low pay, the noise, and the smell of plastic.

6.- What was the one positive aspect of the job?

He could sing at the top of his voice and nobody could hear him.

2. Explain the meaning of the words in bold:

1. "One job I've always **rather fancied** is being a travel writer"

When you really like something.

2. "So you get rather a boring **drudgy** book sometimes..."

Being excessively hard or requiring excessive effort

3. "... and I suppose that might be a **drawback** that you'd feel you had to write a book even if you'd got nothing to say".

To be a disadvantage, a difficulty.

4. "... I think that would **drive me insane**".

Make someone be crazy or mad.

5. To be good at **living out of a suitcase**.

To travel carrying small luggage

PART B - READING

Task 1: Read this text and answer the questions choosing a, b, c or d

CHRISTIAN ARNO: THE STORY OF HIS SUCCESS

It was at the tender age of seven that Christian Arno, founder of the online translation service Lingo24.com, put his first plan for making money into practice. His **scheme** was to buy penny chews and resell them to his schoolmates at 2p per sweet. However, the **venture** came to an abrupt end when one of the mothers found out about it and deemed it "inappropriate". Arno had to shut down immediately.

His next opportunity came during the year he spent abroad as part of his French and Italian course at Oxford. Despite lasting only two weeks as a language assistant in Pavia, northern Italy, Arno was allowed to stay on with full board and lodging. This meant he had a lot of free time on his hands, so he set up a website offering translation services with a friend, Jos Shepherd. Although they didn't make much money, the business gave them both an **insight** into working online. That same year, Arno became financially more **solvent** when he sold some shares he had purchased for a huge profit of £15.000.

Back in Oxford, Arno finished his degree and decided to have another go at his online translation idea. He asked Shepherd to design a new website in return for a 20% **stake** in the business and went on to **launch** Lingo24.com from his own bedroom.

The business was not an instant success due to Arno's inexperience in Internet marketing. However, he worked hard and learnt fast, earning himself a **reputation** for speed and accuracy. After 18 months he had enough business to set up an office in New Zealand so that he could offer clients a proper 24-hour service. Soon after that Arno had another stroke of launch. One of his larger clients started spending hundreds of thousands of pounds on translations, so he was able to invest in more sophisticated technology. This brought in even more business and led to him opening yet more offices in China, Romania and Panama.

Lingo24.com now translates into and out of more than 100 languages, and **turnover** this year is expected to reach £4 million. It has 100 full-time employees and more than 3.000 freelance translators. The company nowadays is a far cry from the **rudimentary** website Arno and Shepherd created in Italy, but that experience was invaluable in showing them the potential of their idea.

Arno's advice for other is: "Seek out people you respect, who have done it before and have got experience and give you advice- but go with your instincts".

From New English File OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS 2010

1.- Arno's first business venture closed down because

- a) his friends couldn't afford his products.
- b) the teachers found out about it.
- c) **the parents didn't approve of it.**
- d) the chews had passed their expiry date.

2.- Arno went to Italy for a year

- a) **To fulfil the requirements of his degree.**
- b) To set up a translation company.
- c) To learn how to be a teacher.
- d) To do a course at an Italian university.

3.- Arno obtained a large sum of money during his year abroad

- a) By translating financial documents.
- b) **By investing in the stock market.**
- c) By working as a language assistant.
- d) By designing websites for a fee.

4.- Arno launched Lingo24.com

- a) While he was still in Italy.
- b) Before he left university.
- c) From an office in Oxford.
- d) **After he graduated.**

5.- At first Lingo24 struggle to survive because Arno

- a) Didn't invest enough money in new technology.
- b) Didn't offer clients a 24-hour service.
- c) **Didn't know how to attract clients online.**
- d) Didn't speak any foreign languages.

6.- The website Arno and Shepherd created in Italy

- a) Introduced them to a number of translators.
- b) **Proved to them what they could achieve.**
- c) Was far too basic to be useful in any way.
- d) Cost a lot of money for them to set it up

Task 2: USE OF ENGLISH

Complete the sentences with one of the highlighted words in the text.

1. When Dave got lost in the jungle, he built a **rudimentary** shack to spend the night in.
2. They set up the venture together and they each have a 50% **stake** in the business.
3. My work experience at a newspaper gave me an invaluable **insight** into the world of the media.

4. The council has introduced a new **scheme** to encourage citizens to recycle their rubbish.
5. The company is going to **launch** a new electric car in the spring.
6. The bank refused to lend us any more money until we could prove that we were **solvent**.
7. He acquired a **reputation** as a first-class chef within months of starting his first job.
8. When Patricia's first business **venture** failed, she lost a great deal of money.
9. The company's annual **turnover** is more than 50 million euros.

From New English File OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS 2010

Task 3: PRAGMATICS

3.1. Write the phonetic transcription of the following words.

Council /'kaʊnsəl/

Technology /tek'nɒlədʒi/

Translator /træns'leɪtər/

3.2. Rewrite the sentences using the words in brackets

She wrote down the appointment so that she wouldn't forget the time (*so as not*)

She wrote down the appointment so as not to forget the time.

The cruise is being cancelled because the weather is going to be bad (*owing to*)

Owing to the weather going to be bad, the cruise is being cancelled.

The motorway is closed until further notice due to resurfacing (*as a result*)

The motorway is closed until further notice as a result of resurfacing.

From New English File OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS 2010

PART C. METHODOLOGY

Task 1: Define what linguistic mediation is in oral language and give ideas to introduce it in the English lessons with students in primary education.

Language mediation is the sixth competence defined in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. This competence helps speakers to create human relations, solve conflicts and improve communication. It refers to any activity in which a text is conveyed from one language into another, not using literal translation but focusing on conveying the text in a way that is appropriate to the situation and the addressees.

A Simple definition of mediation can be: 'Mediation is when we use language to explain *something* to *someone* who doesn't fully understand it without our help.'

Activities proposed can be: paraphrasing, explaining pictures or situations, looking for synonyms, collaborative descriptions, problem solving situations, role playing, presentations, etcetera. The selection of these activities will depend on the students' level of English and age.

