

Narrator: B1+ Midterm Test. Part 1.

You will hear five people talking about work and jobs. Listen to the recordings and match the sentences (A-H) to the speaker (1-5). There are two extra letters which you do not need to use.

You will hear each conversation twice.
Before we start, here is an example.

I'm not sure what job I want to do when I'm older. I'm quite good at languages so I'd like to use my language skills. My parents say I should be a teacher but I'm not so sure. I like working with people and I love children but teachers have too much work. For example, they even have to correct their students' work in the evenings ... I definitely won't take work home with me!

Narrator: The answer is D. Now we are ready to start.

Speaker 1 I've applied for a lot of jobs recently but I haven't had any luck. What I want is a summer job that I can do in the school holidays ... We've got a school trip next year and my mum and dad said I can go if I save some money. I've applied to supermarkets and a sports centre ... I've even asked a local gardener ... but they all say they don't need anyone. Now I'm worried because if I don't find a job, I won't be able to go on the trip.

Speaker 2 I'm doing work experience at the moment, which means I have to work but I don't get paid for it ... I'm working for a company that develops software and I've had to do different things like writing emails to customers and answering the phones ... They even let me write programmes sometimes. At first I wasn't very happy about working for nothing but now I don't mind ... in fact, I'm really enjoying the experience. Every day is so different.

Speaker 3 I don't know what I'm going to do when I leave school. Life will be different for my generation because computers will do everything ... traditional jobs like doctors and accountants won't exist ... To be honest, I sometimes think that the world would be better without all this technology. People say it makes life easier but I disagree. I'm sure things will get more difficult for a lot of young people.

Speaker 4 I worked with my dad in the summer holidays. He's an electrician and the man who normally works with him was on holiday. I didn't have any experience but my dad asked me to help him and it was great to earn some money! However, I didn't really like the job ... One day he asked me if I would like to be an electrician like him

in the future ... so I told him the truth but I could see he was really disappointed ... I felt terrible.

Speaker 5 Last summer I worked as a volunteer in a children's camp. We spent a lot of time working because we were with the children all day and we had to plan activities each evening. In fact, we didn't have very much free time at all ... But, I did enjoy preparing activities for the children and it was great to meet people from so many different countries. I would do it again, but only if they paid me!

Narrator: Now listen again.

Narrator: B1+ Midterm Test. Part 2.

You will hear a reporter talking about an event called the Teenage Heroes Awards. For each question, choose the correct answer, A, B or C.

Presenter: Now, it's over to our reporter Kay Wilson who's at the Teenage Heroes awards ...

Female reporter: Good evening John ... I have to say, it's been a fantastic night ... More than a hundred and fifty children were chosen to come to the awards ... and every one of them is a hero. These children have saved people's lives, overcome personal difficulties and taken on physical challenges ... The judges said that it was almost impossible to decide but after two weeks of discussions, they've chosen two winners ...

Presenter: So who are they?

Female reporter: They're Amy Sutton and Jan Cole ... Amy, who's 16, has an incredible story ... She was injured in a car crash when she was 15 and the doctors said she would probably never walk again. However, Amy didn't want to spend her life in a wheelchair and after nine months in hospital she started walking again ... and she didn't stop! In fact, she loved it so much that she decided to walk nearly 10,000 kilometers round the coast of Britain ...

Presenter: Wow, that's a long way ...

Kay: Yes ... It took 11 months and on the way she collected more than £200,000 in donations, which helped to pay for a new hospital unit. The judges said they chose her because of her strength and determination in the face of huge difficulties.

Presenter: That's amazing ...

Kay: Yes, it is ... and the other winner is a real hero too. His name's Jan and he's 14... Jan was four years old when his father died and 12 years old when his mother became seriously ill. She suffers from an illness that makes her very tired and sometimes unable to walk. Although she needs full time care, Jan decided to take care of

her himself as much as possible. Since then, he has looked after her every day, which isn't easy because he still goes to school ...

Presenter: When does he find time for himself?

Kay: Well, he doesn't really ... In the evenings and at weekends he cleans the house and does their accounts, which means he doesn't have much time to play games or watch TV like other children ...

Presenter: Well, these are some very inspiring stories ...

Kay: They are indeed ... and what I've learnt tonight is that although we're often extremely negative about young people, they deserve a lot more respect than we give them ... and perhaps rather than criticise them all the time, we should recognise the positive things they do ...

Narrator: Now listen again.

Narrator: B1+ Midterm Test. Part 3.

You will hear two students talking about a new art installation at their school.

Listen to the conversation and decide whether the sentences are true (T) or false (F).

Charlie: Hi Marina ... have you seen that new art installation at school?

Marina: Oh, hi Charlie ... Yes, I have, but it's not very impressive. It's just looks like a load of big red and white boxes ...

Charlie: Well, yes, they are red and white boxes ... but the way the artist has organised them is important ...

Marina: But there doesn't seem to be any organisation ... most of them are spread around the floor and some of them are on top of the others. It looks like a giant baby has been playing with them!

Charlie: Well, you're right there ... although I don't think that was the artist's idea. I think the fact that some boxes go higher up than the others is important. Those boxes work together to achieve something ... and I think the artist is saying that we can achieve more by working together.

Marina: Where did you get that idea?

Charlie: Well ... I read it on the artist's website! There's an article about the work that she's done for our school and she explains what it means.

Marina: I see ... but that's my problem with a lot of this installation art ... someone has to tell you what it means ... Whereas with more traditional art like painting or sculpture, you can enjoy it even if you don't understand it.

Charlie: I know what you mean ... I don't think anyone could say that these boxes are as beautiful as a good portrait or still life ... But a lot of installation artists want to take us out of our comfort zones. They think that art's about more than just beauty ... they think it should have a message.

Marina: OK ... so you're saying that for them the message is more important than what the art looks like?

Charlie: Exactly. In fact, some installations don't look like art at all ... they look just like everyday things. For example, last year I went to the Guggenheim Museum and one of the pieces was a pile of plates.

Marina: Are you sure they weren't somebody's washing up?

Charlie: Well, they did look like it ... but I don't know what they meant because there wasn't an explanation!

Marina: Well, as I said, that's the problem. Unless someone tells you what it is, you might not even know that it's art.

Charlie: Yes, I see your point ... but now you know what these boxes mean, have you changed your mind?

Marina: Well, I do like the message and that part of the school was empty before so I guess they're an improvement.

Charlie: That's true ... They're controversial too and good art is always controversial!

Narrator: Now listen again.