

B1 ENGLISH

CHAPTER 1 Practice 4

In this practice you will learn

B1 ENGLISH CHAPTER 1 Practice 4		Completed		Your Score
		Yes	No	
B1 Listening	• Making a decision	☐	☐	/
	• Meeting an old friend	☐	☐	/
	• Work-life balance	☐	☐	/
Read this magazine	➤ World Environment Day	☐	☐	/

Making a decision

Listen to a meeting in which colleagues make a decision to practise and improve your listening skills.

Before listening

Do the preparation task first. Then listen to the audio and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–f) with the vocabulary (1–6).

Vocabulary**Definition**

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. agile | a. a plan for when things will happen and how long they will take |
| 2. a timeline | b. one of the stages of a process |
| 3. additional | c. able to move quickly and easily |
| 4. a phase | d. most of the people in a group |
| 5. to adapt | e. something that is extra or more than planned |
| 6. the majority | f. to change something to make it better or more successful |

Tasks

Task 1

Circle the best option to complete the sentence.

1. The objective of the meeting is to ...
 - a. decide on the role of each team member.
 - b. agree when each phase of the project will happen.
 - c. improve team communication.

2. Emiko wants ...
 - a. to be told what to do.
 - b. everyone to make a decision together.
 - c. to check the decision with the head office.

3. David ...
 - a. prefers a structured approach.
 - b. is happy to take a flexible and agile approach.
 - c. agrees with the decision they make in the end.

4. Carolina doesn't say much at first because ...
 - a. she doesn't have a specific opinion on the topic.
 - b. she is worrying about something else.
 - c. she is considering people's suggestions.

5. The decision they take is based on ...
 - a. a vote.
 - b. a recommendation from Jani's boss.
 - c. a majority decision to follow the team leader.

6. David suggests they should ...
 - a. allow some extra time later in the project.
 - b. get help from another team.
 - c. use an online project management tool.

Task 2

Write the expressions in the correct group.

How do you feel?	That's right.
I don't think I agree with you.	I agree with you on that point.
I'm sorry, I don't think so.	What do you think?
It would be best to ...	I think we should ...

Asking for opinion	Giving opinion	Agreeing	Disagreeing

Discussion

How are decisions usually made where you work?

Transcript

Jani: Thanks for coming, everyone. So, we're here today to define the timeline for our new project.

Emiko: Yes, Jani, that's a great idea.

Carolina: OK. What do you need from us?

Emiko: Hold on a moment. I think we need to decide between us what to do, to make sure it works for all departments.

Jani: Yes, exactly, don't worry. We're going to discuss this and make a decision together. Let's first think about the scheduling of each project phase. What do you think, Emiko?

David: Can I interrupt? I think we should first be clear about the process we'll use to make the decision. How are we going to do it?

Jani: Ah, yes. Good point. Well, I think the best way is for each of you to give your opinion and then we can discuss and make a decision.

David: OK. That sounds good.

Emiko: Yes, that works for me too. I know we're still planning the structure of the later phases of the project, but I think we should begin phase one as soon as possible. We can work out the rest later, as we go along.

David: I'm sorry, I don't think so. How can we start phase one if we're not fully clear on where the rest of the project will take us? We might make a wrong decision and waste time.

Jani: I agree with you on that point, David. However, we'll waste too much time if we wait until everything is planned before we actually start working on the project. I think we should take an agile approach.

David: Agile approach?

Jani: Well, it means that we start quickly and then adapt as we go along.

Emiko: That's right.

Jani: Carolina, you've been very quiet.

Carolina: Um ... I'm sorry. I didn't want to interrupt. I'm listening ... and thinking.

David: Do you agree we should get the plan right first, and then start with phase one?

Carolina: I'm sorry, David. I don't think I agree with you. It's important to have a good plan. But plans can change, even the good ones – and business changes often. We need to be flexible, and we also need to move quickly.

Jani: OK. So should we take a vote?

Emiko: Well, you're the project leader. Let's go with your decision.

Carolina: Yes, I'll follow your lead, Jani.

David: Well, I guess that's decided then. We'll follow your agile approach, Jani. Start quickly and keep planning the later stages of the project.

Jani: Yes, that's right.

David: I still don't think this is the right decision, but I'm happy to go with the majority. We should add some space into the schedule later for additional work this 'flexibility' will need.

Jani: Don't worry, David, we will. OK, so it's decided then. We'll start phase one as soon as possible, and in the background we'll continue planning the later phases and adapt them as we go along.

Listening: B1

Meeting an old friend

Listen to the conversation between two old friends to practise and improve your listening skills.

Before listening

Do the preparation task first. Then listen to the audio and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Circle the correct explanation for the words in CAPITAL letters.

1. It's been AGES.
 - a. a long time
 - b. a short time
2. It DIDN'T WORK OUT.
 - a. was successful
 - b. was not successful
3. The dream job wasn't really A DREAM.
 - a. perfect
 - b. boring
4. It's CRAZY expensive.
 - a. a little
 - b. very
5. Time FLIES.
 - a. goes quickly
 - b. goes slowly
6. You should COME ROUND to the house.
 - a. go outside
 - b. visit

Tasks

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

1. Patrick and Selina have never met each other before.
2. Selina still lives in London.

Answer

True	False
True	False

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 3. Selina didn't like her job in London. | True | False |
| 4. Selina is living with her parents. | True | False |
| 5. Patrick also went to London. | True | False |
| 6. Selina is surprised that Patrick is married. | True | False |
| 7. Patrick has a daughter named Marigold. | True | False |
| 8. Patrick invites Selina to his house. | True | False |

Task 2

Write the correct number to fill the gaps.

1. They have not seen each other for over years.
2. Selina was in London for years.
3. Selina has been back for months.
4. Patrick has been married for years.
5. Patrick's children are and years old.

Discussion

Do you keep in touch with old friends?

Transcript

Selina: Patrick? Is that you?

Patrick: Selina! Hello!

Selina: Well, well. Patrick Eastwood. How have you been?

Patrick: Good. Great, actually. How are you? I haven't seen you for ... how long?

Selina: It's been ages. At least fifteen years. Wow.

Patrick: Yeah. Wow.

Patrick and Selina: So, what are you doing here?

Selina: Sorry, you go first.

Patrick: OK. What are you doing here? I thought you'd moved to London.

Selina: I was in London for a couple of years. But it didn't work out.

Patrick: Oh, I'm sorry to hear that. Are you ... OK?

Selina: I'm fine! The dream job wasn't really a dream, you know? Um ... and London is great but it's so expensive. I mean, just the rent on a flat is ... uh ... crazy expensive.

Patrick: I see.

Selina: So, I came back. I've been back now for almost five months. Living back home with Mum and Dad. Which is err ... interesting. Um ... but anyway, what about you?

Patrick: Me? Oh, nothing new. You know me – 'Patrick the predictable'. I never left here.

Selina: Oh. And is that ...?

Patrick: Oh, I'm very happy. I'm married now. We've just celebrated our tenth anniversary.

Selina: No way! You? Married? To ...?

Patrick: I don't think you know her. Her name's Marigold. And we've got two kids. They're five and eight years old.

Selina: Married and with two kids? Wow!

Patrick: Don't look so surprised!

Selina: No, no ... I'm just amazed how time flies! I'm happy for you. I really am.

Patrick: Thanks. You should really come round to the house one day.

Selina: That would be great. Let's swap numbers and ...

Work-life balance

Listen to a radio interview about maintaining a good work-life balance to practise and improve your listening skills.

Before listening

Do the preparation task first. Then listen to the audio and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

Vocabulary

1. work-life balance
2. overtime
3. a best-selling book
4. an advantage
5. a concept
6. to fade
7. freedom
8. mobility

Definition

- a. a successful book
- b. giving the right amount of time to work and to the rest of your life
- c. an idea
- d. working more than your normal work hours
- e. the ability to work from different places
- f. a positive thing about something
- g. to become less clear or visible
- h. being free to do what you want

Tasks

Task 1

Circle the best answer.

1. How popular is Chris Svensson's book?
 - a. Not very popular
 - b. Very popular
 - c. It's new. People don't know it yet.
2. What is the work-life balance like in traditional workplaces?
 - a. Work lives and private lives are clearly divided.
 - b. People work too much overtime and so they have no private life.
 - c. People are free to manage the balance themselves.

3. How often do people do overtime?
 - a. Often
 - b. Sometimes
 - c. They don't.
4. In traditional workplaces, do people work at weekends or when on holiday?
 - a. Yes, it's normal.
 - b. No, never.
 - c. Usually, they don't.
5. How has technology helped people work with more flexibility?
 - a. They can send and receive emails from their phones from home.
 - b. Their working hours can be easily tracked.
 - c. Robots can do their work for them.
6. Traditional divisions between work and life are fading. What does this mean for employees?
 - a. Everyone has to do overtime, all the time.
 - b. People have to work while they're on holiday.
 - c. They can be flexible to work when and where it suits them.

Task 2

Write the ideas in the correct group.

Possible to work weekends or while on holiday	Flexible working hours	Hobbies and sports only in the evening or at weekends
Fixed working hours	Hobbies and sports can be done at other times, also during the day	No working at weekends or on holiday

Traditional workplaces	Modern workplaces

Discussion

How do you manage your work-life balance?

Transcript

Presenter: Good morning, everyone. On today's show, we've got Chris Svensson with us, the author of *No more nine to five*, the new best-selling book about work-life balance in the current working world. Good morning, Chris. Thanks for coming.

Chris: Thanks for having me, Anna.

Presenter: So, Chris, tell us about your book and how the concept of a work-life balance has been changing?

Chris: Well, in the more traditional workplaces, people's working lives and their private lives are, or were, clearly divided. People often work from nine in the morning until five or six in the evening. People sometimes stay late in the office and work in the evenings. This is called working overtime.

Presenter: OK, and what else?

Chris: Well, in these environments it isn't common for people to work at the weekend or while they're on holiday. They can clearly separate their working lives and their private lives. And the evenings, weekends and holidays are free to focus on non-work areas of life, such as hobbies, interests, sports, spending time with the family and friends, and so on. It's important and healthy not to spend all your time just working, right?

Presenter: Right! So what has changed? How are things different now?

Chris: Well, for a start, most people can now access their work emails from their mobile phones. So they are more likely to quickly reply to an important mail in the evening or at the weekend. The same goes for laptops. It's easier to access your work in the evenings from home or even from your hotel when you're on holiday.

Presenter: That doesn't sound like much of a work-life balance. It sounds like all work.

Chris: Exactly, but this new mobility brings a lot of advantages with it. More people are now able to work flexibly, so if they need to leave the office early one afternoon to be with their family, they can catch up on work that evening from home or somewhere else.

Presenter: That sounds good. So, what you're saying is that although traditional divisions between work and life are fading, many employees now have more freedom to do their work from different locations and at different times.

Chris: Yes, that's it.

World Environment Day

Before reading

Do the preparation task first. Then read the article and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

Vocabulary

Definition

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. island nations | a. to organise an event |
| 2. global warming | b. a phrase that is used to promote something |
| 3. illegal trading | c. people who live in the same town or neighbourhood |
| 4. local community | d. countries that are made up of one or more islands |
| 5. to focus on | e. buying and selling animals that are in danger or protected |
| 6. to host | f. the fact that temperatures are getting hotter around the world |
| 7. a cause | g. to pay attention to |
| 8. a slogan | h. something that you believe in and are ready to fight for |

World Environment Day

People celebrate World Environment Day (WED) in many different ways all over the world: planting trees, cleaning up local beaches, organising meetings, joining online protests. Each year the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) chooses a particular issue to focus on. One year it might be forests, another year it might be wildlife. And each year there is a new host; a city which is the centre point for all the celebrations.

How it first started

The United Nations (UN) named 5 June as international World Environment Day at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment in 1972. The idea was to draw attention to the many problems that are facing our environment. They wanted to include as many people, organisations and governments, both local and national, as possible. They wanted to show that positive change is possible when people work together to fight for a common cause.

The first World Environment Day

The first WED was celebrated in 1974 in the city of Spokane in the USA. The slogan for that first year was 'Only One Earth' and it was celebrated with the world's first world fair to be dedicated to the environment. The exhibition lasted for six months.

The hosts

Since 1974 the WED has been hosted by 34 different cities in 25 different countries around the world, from Cuba to Korea, from Belgium to Brazil. Some countries have hosted the main celebrations two or more times, including Bangladesh, Canada and China. But that doesn't mean that all the celebrations take place in the host country. Every year people from all over the world take part in a huge number of different events to draw attention to the main issue.

The issues

Each year the celebrations focus on a particular problem. Over the last ten years key issues have included wildlife, forests and plastic waste, among other things. Each issue has a slogan. Past slogans include 'Think. Eat. Save.', which asked people to think about the issue of food waste, and 'Raise your voice, not the sea level', to focus on the effect that global warming is having on small island nations around the world. As well as slogans, hashtags have become important for the campaigns too. In a recent campaign the hashtag #WildforLife became a strong symbol for the fight against all kinds of illegal trading in plants and animals.

What you can do

If you want to take part in the celebrations, or support this year's special cause, here are some things that you can do. You can visit the [official website](#) to find out what this year's slogan is. You can search for the slogan online to find organisations and events in your area or online. You can share information about the cause and the events on social media or form a local action group of your own and organise an event in your community. Whatever you do, you won't be alone. Millions of people all around the world will be joining the celebrations and fighting for a better future for our planet.

Tasks

Task 1

Match the information (a–e) with the section titles (1–5).

Section titles

1. The issues
2. What you can do
3. How it first started
4. The hosts
5. The first WED

Information

- a. When the decision was made about the date for this special day
- b. What was so special about the exhibition that was held in the USA
- c. The names of cities and countries that have helped organise the day
- d. The problems and good causes that people have tried to draw attention to
- e. Examples of the kind of thing people do to fight for the environment

Task 2

Put the phrases in the correct group.

Wild for Life	rising sea levels	Think. Eat. Save.
planting trees	visiting the official website	joining protests
plastic waste	wasting food	Raise your voice, not the sea level

Actions	Issues	Slogans

Discussion

What do you think are the main problems that are facing the environment at the moment? What can we do to help?