

B2 ENGLISH

CHAPTER 1 Practice 4

In this practice you will learn

B2 ENGLISH CHAPTER 1 Practice 4		Completed <i>Yes No</i>		Your Score
B2 Listening	• Joining a gym	☐	☐	/22
	• Office party planning	☐	☐	/22
	• Talking about rumors	☐	☐	/22
Read these articles	➤ Easter	☐	☐	/22
	➤ April Fool's Day	☐	☐	/24

Listening: B2
Joining a gym

Listen to the conversation about joining a gym 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 words in capital letters (a–f) with the definitions (1–6).

Definition

1. registration
2. amount of money
3. give
4. create
5. come to
6. cheap

Vocabulary

- a. A new BUDGET airline has started flying to our city.
- b. What is the daily RATE for renting a bicycle?
- c. There is a very small SIGN-UP fee.
- d. They ASSIGN each class a special room.
- e. We can DESIGN a personalised programme for you.
- f. If you VISIT the shop, I can show you in person.

Tasks

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	Answer	
1. The man has only recently decided to join the gym.	True	False
2. The woman says the gym will make sure it has the lowest price in the city.	True	False
3. The woman says that other gyms charge people when they leave.	True	False
4. The gym used to be open for 24 hours but it was too busy.	True	False
5. The personal trainer will tell you what and what not to eat.	True	False
6. The personal trainer doesn't cost anything at all.	True	False
7. The man is not convinced at the end of the conversation.	True	False
8. The gym offers a sample visit.	True	False

Task 2

Complete the sentences with words from the box.

got that	get	don't	Makes	we
bit	of	to know	straight	

1. Sure, course.
2. You've right, yes.
3. Sorry, what was that last ?
4. That's useful
5. sense.
6. Sure do.
7. Let me this
8. OK, why I do that.

Discussion

What do you look for in a gym?

Transcript

Receptionist: Hello, welcome to Shake it Off Fitness. How can I help you?

Customer: Yes, thanks. I've been meaning to come in and find some information about here for some time. I was wondering if you could help me?

Receptionist: Sure, of course. What would you like to know?

Customer: I saw on the sign outside that you have the best budget membership in the city. Is that right?

Receptionist: You've got that right, yes. If you find a better rate, then we'll match it. Also, we don't have any sign-up fees or cancellation fees.

Customer: Sorry, what was that last bit?

Receptionist: Cancellation fees. Some gyms charge you money if you leave before a minimum number of months or something like that. We don't do that.

Customer: That's useful to know. Ummm, what times do you have?

Receptionist: We open at 5 a.m. and close at midnight.

Customer: Not 24 hours then, I see.

Receptionist: No. Almost, though! We tried doing the 24-hour thing, but there really weren't a lot of people who wanted to do exercise at 2 in the morning.

Customer: Makes sense. Another question: do you have trainers? Like, will you do a personalised evaluation of me?

Receptionist: Sure we do. As we say on our brochure, we can show you what to do, how to do it and why you're doing it. Have you worked with a personal trainer before?

Customer: Err, no. No, I haven't. No.

Receptionist: So, it's very easy. For your first visits we'll assign you one of our expert personal trainers. He or she will design an exercise plan that's just right for you and show you exactly what to do. We even include nutrition advice in the plan.

Customer: Let me get this straight. All of this is included in the price?

Receptionist: Yes, it is. If you want to continue with your trainer after the first few classes, we can talk about that. It does cost extra though. OK?

Customer: Yeah. Sounds ... great.

Receptionist: Do you have any other questions?

Customer: Hmmm, yeah. Um, OK. Why should I choose here instead of any of the other gyms in the city?

Receptionist: What, you mean apart from our competitive rates and personalised attention?

Customer: Yeah, I guess.

Receptionist: Listen, here's a free day pass. Why don't you drop by and see for yourself? That way you can talk to other members, see the facilities and our staff.

Customer: OK, I'll do that. Thanks very much!

Office party planning

Listen to the conversation with an event planner 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. to reassemble
2. to source
3. to stretch
4. to be fixed on something
5. to hoist
6. to dismantle
7. to exceed
8. to be inventive

Definition

- a. to find or locate something
- b. to take something apart
- c. to put something back together again
- d. to creatively think of new or interesting ideas
- e. to raise or lift something up
- f. to allow something that would not normally be allowed
- g. to go beyond a pre-defined limit
- h. to have already decided on something, without further flexibility

Tasks

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	Answer	
1. Ayako wants a baby grand piano for the Christmas party.	True	False
2. The baby grand piano will easily fit through the building doorway.	True	False
3. Sam suggests a solution for the problem.	True	False
4. Ayako has around 50 per cent flexibility with the budget.	True	False
5. Ayako is fixed on the idea that it must be a baby grand piano.	True	False
6. Ayako accepts the upright piano when Sam suggests it.	True	False

Task 2

Put the words in order to make sentences.

1. a good That sounds like plan.
2. idea this work, then. So won't
3. being I Sorry if wasn't clear.
4. an option? Would be this
5. it That might sounds work. like
6. of over Could some send it? me you photos
7. it and call I'll you me about back. Let think
8. I'll wait call. your for

Discussion

When was the last time you had to discuss a problem on the phone?

Transcript

Ayako: Hello, sales department. This is Ayako speaking. How can I help you?

Sam: Hi, Ayako, this is Sam from Events-4-U. I'm calling about the piano you want at your Christmas party next month.

Ayako: Oh, good. It would be a great surprise to have one there for our boss for the night. He can play and it would be a great addition for the party. Have you been able to source one?

Sam: Well, yes, I have, but ...

Ayako: But what?

Sam: Well, we're going to either have an issue with the logistics or the budget, or possibly both.

Ayako: Oh dear.

Sam: Well, we've found a baby grand piano, as you requested, and it's available for the date you want.

Ayako: OK, great. So what's the issue? Is it too expensive?

Sam: No, it's within the budget you gave me, so everything there is OK. But it's too wide for the entrance doorway into the building.

Ayako: Oh, I see. So what are our options? Could we dismantle it outside and reassemble it inside?

Sam: Er, no. Unfortunately, you can't really do that with pianos. But don't worry, I'm sure we can find some inventive solution.

Ayako: Do you have any ideas?

Sam: Well, we could hoist it up to the first-floor balcony. The door there would be large enough to fit it through.

Ayako: Great. That sounds like a good plan.

Sam: That would work, though it would increase the cost considerably as we'd need a crane, an extension on the insurance policy and probably two to three additional people to manage getting it successfully into the building.

Ayako: Oh, I see. Well, we can definitely stretch the budget by about ten per cent, but we shouldn't go over that. If we exceed the budget by more than ten per cent, then other areas of the party budget will have to be cut. And we don't really want that.

Sam: OK, so this idea won't work then. Sorry if I wasn't being clear. The considerable budget increase I was referring to would add a further fifty per cent. You know, cranes are expensive.

Ayako: Oh ... um ... OK. So what other options do we have?

Sam: Well, how fixed are you on the piano being a baby grand? Would an upright piano be an option?

Ayako: Hmm. I don't know.

Sam: It would fit through the door on the ground floor and cause fewer problems. I've also got the option on a really nice white vintage upright piano, with black design work.

Ayako: OK. That sounds like it might work. Could you send me over some photos of it?

Sam: I'll do it now, together with the rental and delivery information and costs.

Ayako: Great. Thanks, Sam. Let me think about it and I'll call you back later today.

Sam: Sure, no problem. I'll wait for your call.

Talking about rumours

Listen to two people talking about a colleague 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. to keep your mouth shut | a. to be in a position where someone is pleased with you and nice to you |
| 2. to be in someone's good books | b. in a powerful position |
| 3. to come to light | c. to say nothing |
| 4. to take credit for | d. to be excluded |
| 5. to be out | e. to be made public |
| 6. high up | f. to allow people to believe that you did something that deserves praise or special attention |

Tasks

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

- | | Answer | |
|---|--------|-------|
| 1. No one really knows the truth about the situation with John. | True | False |
| 2. Kiera doesn't immediately share everything she knows about John. | True | False |
| 3. Susanne wasn't the original creator of the cars idea. | True | False |
| 4. Susanne reported John to people higher up in the company. | True | False |
| 5. Kiera disagrees with what Will has said about John's aggressive behaviour. | True | False |
| 6. Kiera saw John stealing ideas from other people. | True | False |
| 7. Kiera made an official complaint about John's behaviour. | True | False |
| 8. There was a culture of silence that meant John was not investigated earlier. | True | False |

Task 2

Complete the sentences with words from the box.

credit	fire	award	investigation
contact	high	mouths	books

1. Will has heard that they might John.
2. John used to take for other people's ideas.
3. One project won an , but only John got the recognition.
4. Kiera says it's almost impossible to report people as up as John was.
5. He shouted and screamed at people and they learned to keep their shut.
6. You could be in his good and then suddenly you were out.
7. Kiera was lucky that she didn't have much with him.
8. They're doing a full

Discussion

What makes a good or bad boss?

Transcript

Will: Kiera, have you heard John isn't coming back and they might even fire him?

Kiera: No! I knew he was away but I thought it was for personal reasons?

Will: I'm pretty sure that's not the full story. Have you ever worked with him?

Kiera: A long time ago, but ... well, I've heard stories about him for years.

Will: I've never worked with him directly but I know people that have and they say he was always shouting and screaming, threatening to fire people. And Susanne told me he took credit for one of her ideas. She had this idea for a project and she brought it up at the monthly creative workshop and he liked it – everybody did. But she saw the notes from the meeting and there was no mention of her name anywhere. John had agreed with her and repeated some of the things she said and the notes made it look like they were his ideas in the first place. He made her do all the work planning it, then when the project actually got started – it was that cars one – Susanne was moved to something else.

Kiera: It won an award, didn't it?

Will: Yeah, but Susanne didn't get to share it – there was zero recognition of her contribution. She was furious but she couldn't do anything about it. Not if she wanted to keep her job.

Kiera: Yeah, it's almost impossible to report people who are as high up as John is, or was.

Will: How did you find working with him, then?

Kiera: Well, you know what you said about him shouting at people? I've been in meetings with him and we all learned to keep our mouths shut. It was horrible. People were genuinely afraid of him.

Will: Did you ever see him stealing people's ideas?

Kiera: It was never that obvious. He was a genius. He had incredible vision but, you know, there was a whole team of people working with him. Not every single idea came from him and after a while it's not easy to say, 'Oh, this idea was mine and this idea was yours.' For me, the bigger problem was that you could be in his good books and then suddenly, with no explanation, you were out. And if you were out, life got very difficult.

Will: I heard women in particular had a hard time working with him.

Kiera: Yeah, well, like I said, you had to stay in his good books. So, if there was a comment that made you feel uncomfortable, you didn't say anything.

Will: Did that happen to you?

Kiera: Not to me, no, but we all knew ... and no one said anything. And I was lucky I didn't have that much contact with him myself.

Will: They're doing a full investigation so I suppose a lot of these stories are going to come to light.

Kiera: I hope so. I really hope he's not coming back.

Easter is the most important festival of the year for most Christians and a holiday for many others. Read on to find out more about it.

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. to mark | a. the ability to produce new life (babies, plants, etc.) |
| 2. a triumph | b. a baby bird |
| 3. a chick | c. to celebrate an important event |
| 4. pagan | d. belonging to a religion which existed before the main world religions |
| 5. fertility | e. a victory or success |
| 6. holy | f. related to a religion or god |
| 7. a procession | g. eating no food for a period of time |
| 8. fasting | h. a group of people walking in a formal way as part of a ceremony |

Easter

The meaning of Easter

Easter is a Christian festival which marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ. For many Christians, Easter is a celebration of the triumph of life over death, and a very important time of the year. Many non-Christians also have a holiday at this time, so it is a popular time to travel or spend with friends and family. We see lots of symbols of new life at Easter, especially eggs, chicks, flowers and rabbits. These symbols go back to ancient pagan traditions which celebrated fertility, rebirth and new growth after the long, winter months.

When it is celebrated

The dates of Easter change from year to year but it usually falls sometime between the end of March and the end of April. In Western Christianity, Easter Sunday is the first Sunday after the first full moon of spring, which starts on 21 March. The Eastern Orthodox churches, which use a different calendar, have a slightly different way of calculating Easter and usually celebrate Easter a little earlier or later.

Holy Week

The week before Easter is called Holy Week. The first day of Holy Week is Palm Sunday, which is the Sunday before Easter. Many Christians celebrate this as the day that Jesus entered Jerusalem and people threw down branches from palm trees on the road to welcome him. Four days later is Maundy Thursday, which marks the Last Supper, when Jesus ate bread and drank wine with his twelve disciples. The following day is Good Friday, which is significant for Christians as the day that Jesus was put to death on the cross. Many Christians believe that Jesus was killed and buried in a tomb on the Friday and that God raised him from the dead on the Sunday. So Easter Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus.

How Easter is celebrated

In many countries there are religious processions during Holy Week, and practising Christians attend special church services. On Palm Sunday, many churches bless palm branches and people put them on the ground during processions to mark the day that Jesus arrived in Jerusalem. The Last Supper on Maundy Thursday is celebrated in many Christian traditions in the form of the Communion, when believers share bread and wine. Good Friday is traditionally a day of fasting, reflection and sadness. A lot of church services start at midnight the night before Easter Sunday with the lighting of candles or, in Greece, fireworks. This represents the triumph of light over darkness. On Easter Sunday, churches are filled with flowers representing new life, and at home chocolate Easter eggs are given as presents.

Other Easter traditions

There are many different Easter traditions around the world. In some places, people eat lamb on Easter Sunday, but there are many other foods, such as hot cross buns – spiced, sweet bread buns made with raisins – that are traditional in the UK.

In some places in Eastern Europe, boys and girls throw water at each other, while in Corfu, Greece, there is a tradition of throwing pots and pans out of windows and from balconies, breaking them on the street. In the United States, a tradition of wearing new clothes at Easter has evolved into making Easter bonnets – fancy hats decorated with flowers, rabbits and other symbols of spring. For fans of crime fiction, Norway is the place to be at Easter, when it has become traditional to read crime novels and solve mysteries.

Eggs are a popular part of Easter celebrations. Traditionally, people paint chicken eggs and decorate them with bright colours to give as presents. Nowadays, chocolate eggs are more popular than the traditional kind, especially with children. They are often hidden around the house and garden so that children can find them in an Easter egg hunt.

Tasks

Task 1

Put the phrases in the correct group. There are two phrases in each group.

Communion	Fasting	Jesus entered Jerusalem
Light and flowers	The Last Supper	Jesus was raised from the dead
Palm branches	Jesus died	

Palm Sunday	Maundy Thursday
Good Friday	Easter Sunday

Task 2

Put the words in order to make sentences.

- Christian festival Easter the resurrection of is a which marks Jesus Christ.
- go ancient pagan to These symbols back traditions.
- as the day Many Christians that Jesus celebrate this entered Jerusalem.
- over the triumph represents This of light darkness.
- for fans of crime fiction the place Norway is to be at Easter.
- popular of Easter part Eggs are a celebrations.

Discussion

Do you celebrate Easter?

April Fool's Day

April Fool's Day is a special day for jokes and tricks in many countries. Read this article to find out all about it.

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

1. a practical joke
2. to play a trick on someone
3. to fall for something
4. hilarious
5. an errand
6. a hoax
7. to fool someone
8. light-hearted

Definition

- a. a trick to make people believe something that is not true
- b. to be tricked into believing something that is not true
- c. amusing; not serious
- d. a trick that surprises someone and makes them look silly
- e. a short trip you take in order to do something
- f. to do something to somebody which makes people laugh
- g. very funny
- h. to trick someone

April Fool's Day

April Fool's Day is celebrated on 1 April in many countries around the world. On this day, people traditionally play practical jokes on each other and have fun trying to make other people believe things that are not true.

April Fool's traditions

In the UK, jokes and tricks can be played up until noon on 1 April. After midday it's considered bad luck to play a trick. Anyone who forgets this and tries a joke in the afternoon becomes an 'April Fool' themselves.

So, what kind of jokes do people play? Well, a simple example would be telling your friend that their shoelaces are undone. Then, when they bend down to do them up, you shout, 'April Fool!', and they realise their shoelaces are fine. Maybe it's not your kind of humour, but watch out, there's always someone who will find it hilarious! In Ireland, a popular prank is to send someone on a 'fool's errand'. The victim is sent to deliver a letter, supposedly asking for help. When the person receives the letter, they open it, read it and tell the poor messenger that they will have to take the letter to another person. This continues and the victim ends up

taking the message to several different people until someone feels sorry for them and shows them what the letter says: 'Send the fool to someone else.'

In France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy and French-speaking areas of Canada and Switzerland, the 1 April tradition is known as the 'April Fish'. A common joke is to try to stick a paper fish onto a victim's back without being noticed.

April Fool's Day in the media

Some newspapers, TV channels and well-known companies publish false news stories to fool people on 1 April. One of the earliest examples of this was in 1957, when a programme on the BBC, the UK's national TV channel, broadcast a report on how spaghetti grew on trees. The film showed a family in Switzerland collecting spaghetti from trees and many people were fooled into believing it, as in the 1950s British people didn't eat much pasta and many didn't know how it was made! Most British people wouldn't fall for the spaghetti trick today, but in 2008 the BBC managed to fool their audience again with their *Miracles of Evolution* trailer, which appeared to show some special penguins that had regained the ability to fly. Two major UK newspapers, *The Daily Telegraph* and the *Daily Mirror*, published the 'important story' on their front pages.

On April Fool's Day 1998, the American hamburger chain Burger King announced that it had created a left-handed hamburger. The advert for the 'new product' explained that all the ingredients had been rotated 180 degrees so that it was more comfortable for left-handed people to pick up and eat. The following day, Burger King admitted that this advertisement had been a hoax, but said that thousands of customers had gone to restaurants across the USA asking for a left-handed burger.

April Fool's Day controversy

April Fool's Day fans say it encourages fun and laughter, and one study found that it reduces stress and therefore could be good for your heart. Other people point out that it can have negative consequences, like confusion, worry or wasting time and resources. For example, a spokesperson for Dublin Zoo said staff had 'lost their sense of humour' after they received more than 100,000 calls asking for invented names such as Mr C Lyons, Anna Conda and G Raffe! The callers were victims of a phone hoax, who contacted the zoo after receiving a text message encouraging them to make the call.

In the era of 'fake news' it's often hard on a normal day of the year to work out when we're being tricked into believing something that isn't true, but on April Fool's Day you need to be even more alert. No one knows exactly how the tradition started, but there are plenty of people who enjoy this light-hearted day and are happy to keep the tradition alive.

Tasks

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	Answer	
1. In the UK, you can play an April Fool's Day trick all day on 1 April.	True	False
2. In Ireland, the 'fool's errand' joke usually involves only two people.	True	False
3. Very few people believed the 1957 April Fool's story about spaghetti growing on trees.	True	False
4. In 1998, a lot of people in the United States wanted to try the left-handed hamburger.	True	False
5. Some people say that April Fool's Day can have positive health effects.	True	False
6. The spokesperson for Dublin Zoo was called Anna Conda.	True	False
7. On 1 April, you should watch out for fake news even more than usual.	True	False
8. The origins of April Fool's Day are clear.	True	False

Task 2

Read the sentences and then write the correct form of the word in brackets in the gaps.

1. April Fool's Day is a where people play tricks on each other. (celebrate)
2. The victim of the 'fool's errand' joke is the (message)
3. In French-speaking areas of Canada, 1 April is known as the 'April Fish'. (tradition)
4. Thousands of customers went to Burger King after seeing an for a new burger. (advertise)
5. Burger King said its new hamburger was more for left-handed people. (comfort)
6. Fun and on April Fool's Day can reduce stress levels. (laugh)
7. Many people find April Fool's Day very (enjoy)
8. After receiving thousands of prank calls, a for Dublin Zoo said staff had 'lost their sense of humour'. (speak)

Discussion

Have you ever been tricked or played a trick on anybody?