



The World of Works

Task: Applying for a First Job

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 8.

You are going to hear a talk about **applying for a first job**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

Audio Script

Getting your first job can be exciting and tricky at the same time. You might have to try quite a few interviews before somebody takes you on. Everybody that works has had to go through that at some point in their lives and these experiences had served them for finding future employment.

So to continue, why might somebody have trouble landing their first job? There is the obvious disadvantage of lacking experience or education for your dream job. There might be more qualified applicants and it could be difficult competing against them. Furthermore, many future employers complained about some applicants not having a great curriculum vitae. Either these applicants don't put enough information in their C.V. or they make it too general to apply to many different jobs with the same C.V. Moreover, these same employers have mentioned that making a cover letter too similar to their C.V. is also a mistake. It would be better to use the cover letter to show their strengths and how they can be a benefit to the company in solving problems they could come to have. On the other hand, although it is good to aim high, it isn't ideal to have expectations that are too high to reach. It is totally normal that the first job isn't going to be a person's favourite and they shouldn't settle on it either, but somehow experience needs to be gathered in order to find that dream job. Finally, some people have trouble getting their first job because they are just too nervous in the interview. So, for that reason it is a good idea to go the extra mile and practice doing an interview with a friend or family member before. That way you can think about how you will answer certain questions and visualize what it might be like to do an interview. That should help reduce nervousness.

In spite of the difficulties, there are some things that a person can do to improve their chances. When creating a curriculum vitae it is a good idea for the applicant to say what skills, education, internships and projects they have that would be valuable for that job. By specifying, the employer can see how it would be beneficial to hire that person. Another good idea is to research the company where the applicant is applying or learn about the type of work they want to do. That way it will be easier to impress a future employer if they think the applicant is really interested in working in that company. Something else that can be helpful is to volunteer in something similar to the type of job the applicant is applying to, because having been volunteering is a way of getting experience that can be put in the C.V. and employers are often impressed by an applicant that takes this sort of initiative. Also, one



ought to dress to impress when they go to an interview. It is important to wear sharp clothes because in this way you are letting the interviewer know that you will be providing a good image for their company. Lastly, one can always learn from their interviews to know how to do it better and additionally many working professionals nowadays mentioned that if they had thought about talking with other professionals when they first started, they would have been more aware on what they had to do before sending their first C.V. and going to their first interview.

On the whole, by doing certain things beforehand, it will be easier to land that first job. You know what they say, practice makes perfect and the more interviews you do, the more likely you are to get finding a job that you love to work in.

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me about the reasons for having problems in getting your first job and how to improve your chances.

Now tell me about the reasons for having problems in getting your first job and how to improve your chances. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

Answers:

Reasons for problems in getting first job	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● lack of experience or education● not a great curriculum vitae, too general● making the cover letter similar to the C.V.● expectations are too high● too nervous in the interview
How to improve chances	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Say what skills, education, internships and projects for the job in your curriculum vitae● Research the company or type of work you want to do● Volunteer to get some experience on your C.V.● Dress to impress, have a good appearance● Learn from interview experiences and talk to professionals

Marks: +_ / +10