

Lesson 19: The Times are Changing

Noel is looking for a job, but he's not having much success. His friend Tori tries to give him support and advice. Listen to their conversation and mark these statements as "True" or "False."

Listening Comprehension

Are these statements true or false according to the dialogue?

1. Noel dressed nicely for the interview.
2. Tori was surprised to hear he wasn't hired.
3. Noel thought it would be difficult to get the job.
4. Noel was an excellent student.
5. Mitch read Noel's resume carefully.
6. Noel talked too much during the interview.
7. Mitch rejected Noel because he didn't have enough experience.
8. Tori is sympathetic to Noel's feelings.
9. Tori's job also requires staying up-to-date.
10. Tori offers to help Noel get a job at her company.

Conversation Text

Tori: Hey Noel, you're **looking sharp** today!
But **why the long face?**

Noel: I just got back from a job interview, and it was nothing but a waste of time.

Tori: Sorry to hear that. Was this the **RN** job at Medical Alliance?

Noel: Yup.

Tori: What happened? I thought you were a **shoo-in** for that position.

Noel: So did I. Well, this morning, I made sure my resume was **flawless** and **headed out** the door **in high spirits**.

Tori: That's a good way to approach a job interview.

Noel: I figured I **had the job in the bag**. I've got a solid background in nursing. My last employer gave me a great reference. Heck, I even graduated at the top of my nursing class. But was that enough to **make the cut**?

Tori: You didn't get the job, **I take it**.

Noel: **Bingo**. An absolutely **insufferable** kid named Mitch interviewed me. He **took one**

Vocabulary

looking sharp = looking good; well-dressed

why the long face? = why are you sad/upset?

RN = registered nurse

a shoo-in = a person who is certain to be selected

flawless = perfect

head out = leave (informal)

in high spirits = happy, joyful

had the job in the bag = would *definitely* get the job

make the cut = be good enough to be accepted, according to a standard which will include some people and exclude others

I take it = I assume; I guess or understand

Bingo = (slang) you're exactly right

insufferable = impossible to tolerate

glance at my resume, then **tossed it aside**. It seemed like he **couldn't care less** about my experience.

Tori: No way! So what did he ask you?

Noel: Not much at all. Actually, he spent most of the interview **rambling** about the future of medical care. And every time I tried to **bring up** my strong points, he **cut me off**!

Tori: I've had interviews with people like that... real **know-it-alls** who just want to **put you down** while making themselves look important and smart. They just like to hear themselves talk.

Noel: According to him, I'm "not what Medical Alliance is looking for at the current time." He said that they need **bright** and **forward-thinking** nurses who can adapt to the ever-changing medical world.

Tori: And in his point of view, you **didn't fit the bill**, huh?

Noel: I really think he rejected me because of my gray hair! Look... I'm **no spring chicken**. But I **know the ropes** when it comes to nursing.

Vocabulary

took one glance = looked very briefly/quickly

tossed it aside = casually put or threw it to the side

couldn't care less = completely didn't care

rambling = talking too long with too many details

bring up = introduce a topic in conversation

cut me off = interrupted me

know-it-alls = people who think they are intellectually superior and know everything

put you down = make you feel inferior

bright = intelligent

forward-thinking = describes someone innovative who thinks about the future

didn't fit the bill = not suitable for what is required

no spring chicken = not a young person

Tori: It seems like experience and qualifications aren't enough anymore.

Noel: Exactly. These young **folks** just see me as being out of date and **out of touch** with the modern world.

Tori: I'm so sorry, Noel. The world is constantly changing.... people are changing. Times aren't like they used to be.

Noel: When I started out, all you needed to **get your foot in the door** were training and skills. But now **it's a whole new ball game**. I have to try extra-hard to **come across as** innovative and dynamic.

Tori: I know what you mean. I work in the music industry, and if I don't keep up with the latest trends, I'll **get the axe in a heartbeat**. Job security is a thing of the past.

Noel: How am I even supposed to *find* a job when these **stuck-up** HR managers won't hire perfectly capable nurses?

Tori: **Don't lose heart**, Noel – you'd be a great asset to any hospital. I'll **keep an eye out** for any job opportunities.

Noel: Thanks, Tori. I appreciate it.

Vocabulary

know the ropes = know an area well; know how to do something properly

folks = people

out of touch = not informed about current developments

get your foot in the door = gain access/entry to an opportunity (especially a career)

it's a whole new ball game = it's a completely different situation / set of circumstances

come across as = make an impression of being a certain way

get the axe = get fired, lose one's job

in a heartbeat = very fast, almost immediately

Don't lose heart = don't become discouraged

keep an eye out for = watch to see if something appears

Vocabulary Quiz

Complete each sentence with a word from the box. Three words are not used.

a shoo-in	fit the bill	in high spirits	lose heart
a whole new ball game	flawless	keep an eye out	make the cut
bright	I take it	know the ropes	out of touch
couldn't care less	in a heartbeat	know-it-all	ramble

1. Don't just _____ when you're on a first date - make sure to let the other person talk, too.
2. Everyone was _____ on the day before summer vacation.
3. He's refusing to answer my calls, so _____ he's still pretty angry at me.
4. I just got hired at a bank, and I'm the least experienced person there - all my coworkers _____.
5. That senator comes from a rich family; he's totally _____ with the working class.
6. If I got the opportunity to move to Australia, I wouldn't hesitate - I'd go _____.
7. The gymnast's _____ performance was rewarded with a 10/10 from the judges.



8. My daughter is very _____. She's in first grade, but she's already reading at a third-grade level.
9. We know the U.S. market very well, but doing business overseas is _____.
10. The holiday sale has ended, but make sure to _____ for future promotions!
11. With an incredible 78% approval rating, the president is _____ for reelection.
12. I needed a computer to do some heavy-duty video editing, and this model was the only one that _____.
13. It's a terrible school because the teachers there _____ about the students.

Speaking Task

Describe, based on your observations, some changes you have seen over the course of your life. Talk about both changes in society and culture, and changes in your own personality or interests.

Record your answer at www.speakpipe.com/espressoenglish or send the MP3 to homework@espressoenglish.net for feedback and correction!

Answers

Comprehension Questions

1. True
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. False
6. False
7. False
8. True
9. True
10. False

Vocabulary Quiz

1. ramble
2. in high spirits
3. I take it
4. know the ropes
5. out of touch
6. in a heartbeat
7. flawless
8. bright
9. a whole new ball game
10. keep an eye out
11. a shoo-in
12. fit the bill
13. couldn't care less