

# DREAM JOB turns into NIGHTMARE

1 It was advertised as the best job in the world. And it certainly looked good. You would be paid \$189,000 for six months) to surf, sail and swim. The job came with a beachside mansion, with its own swimming pool, and fantastic views of the ocean. All you had to do was look after tiny Hamilton Island, situated off the coast of Queensland. Duties included feeding the fish and writing a blog of your experiences to help encourage tourism in the area. There were more than 34,000 applicants for the job from all over the world, so Ben Southall was delighted when he beat them all and won the contract.

2 But, as it turned out, it wasn't quite the dream job that some people might have expected. Firstly, it was incredibly busy. Ben found himself working seven days a week and up to nineteen hours a day. He had a busy schedule of events to attend, with promotional events, press conferences, training courses and administrative duties. It has been very busy, busier than most people would have imagined and certainly busier than I had imagined, Mr Southall told reporters when he finished his contract.

3 In fact, during his six months, Ben visited ninety 'exotic locations', made forty-seven video diaries and gave more than 250 media interviews – including a chat with popular US TV host Oprah Winfrey. He also posted more than 75,000 words in sixty separate blogs, uploaded more than 2,000 photos and 'tweeted' more than 730 times.

4 That didn't leave much time for surfing, sailing or simply relaxing and enjoying the sea views. And when he did get the chance to try out his water sports, things didn't always go well. On one trip, Ben was stung by a deadly jellyfish. Inland jellyfish are transparent and very small, so they are very difficult to see in the water. In his blog, Ben describes how he was enjoying jet skiing with some friends, when as he climbed off the jet ski, he felt a sting on his arm. Within thirty minutes, Ben was feeling the venom. He was hot and sweaty, with a headache, pains in his chest and high blood pressure. Ben had to be rushed to a doctor who diagnosed the symptoms and gave him some medication. Luckily, Ben was fine, but it was an unwelcome end to his stay in paradise, and not how he expected to spend his last few days on Hamilton Island. Ben was lucky to survive.

5 However, he still insists that he enjoyed himself immensely. In fact, Tourism Queensland is offering him a new contract, and he will also write a book about his experiences.

2 Tick the things which Ben did as part of his job.

- 1 gave speeches
- 2 made video diaries
- 3 managed a big team of people
- 4 gave interviews
- 5 attended press conferences
- 6 learned a new language
- 7 met politicians
- 8 wrote a novel
- 9 wrote a blog about his experiences
- 10 learned to surf and sail

3 Find words or phrases in the text to match definitions 1–8.

- 1 a large house by the sea (paragraph 1)
- 2 a plan that includes a lot of things to be done in a short time (paragraph 2)
- 3 meetings at which someone answers questions asked by people from newspapers, television, etc. (paragraph 2)
- 4 activities involved in managing the work of a company or organisation (paragraph 2)
- 5 posted a comment using the website Twitter (paragraph 3)
- 6 have an opportunity (paragraph 4)
- 7 taken very quickly (paragraph 5)
- 8 very, very much (paragraph 6)

- B Read the article to see if you were right. Then answer the questions.
- 1 What three things help to make the job 'the best job in the world'?
  - 2 Why was the job not as 'ideal' as it seemed at first?
  - 3 What happened to Ben towards the end of his contract?
  - 4 What is he going to do now?

loneliness free time feeling bored  
problems with animals illness  
money other

1 A Ben Southall got a 'dream job': looking after Hamilton Island, off the coast of Queensland, Australia. The article describes how the job turned into a nightmare. Which of these problems do you think it will mention?

## VOCABULARY

### EXTREME ADJECTIVES

Complete the sentences with the correct word.

- 1 a) I thought the show was *brilliant/boiling*.  
b) Is the heating on? It's *brilliant/boiling* in here.
- 2 a) Have you heard the news? Isn't it *terrible/furious*?  
b) All the trains were delayed. I was *terrible/furious*.
- 3 a) I'd invite you round, but my apartment is *delicious/tiny*.  
b) Have you tried these salads? They're *delicious/tiny*.
- 4 a) I can't do it – it's *exhausted/impossible*!  
b) I'm going home. I'm *exhausted/impossible*.
- 5 a) It's a(n) *fascinating/enormous* story of naval history.  
b) \$50,000! That's a(n) *fascinating/enormous* amount of money!

## GRAMMAR

### USED TO, WOULD

Complete the paragraphs. Use one word for each gap.

'I used <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ work for a big company. I <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to work long hours and I <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ dream of living in a more exotic location, sitting on a beach with my laptop. Now I run my own website business. I don't earn as much money as I <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to earn, but I'm much happier.'

'I <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to work as a computer programmer. Most of the time, I <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ enjoy it. But I didn't <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to like being in an office all day. So, I decided to get a job working outdoors. Now, I train people in forestry skills, so I'm outside most of the time. And my lifestyle is much healthier than it <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to be.'

Rewrite the sentences with *used to*.

- 1 Did you spend your holidays by the sea?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 We didn't have a dog when I was a child.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 I loved reading in the evening, but now I'm too tired.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 I remember how I sat in my grandfather's studio and watched him paint.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Children always played around on the streets in the old days, but there's nobody here now.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 They lived in a big house, but they had to move.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tick the sentences in Exercise 6A where you could replace *used to* with *would*.

Look at the underlined words. Are they pronounced with a /s/ or /z/ sound?

- 1 I used to be very sporty.
- 2 Can I use your phone?
- 3 He never used to worry about it.
- 4 I used to live in the USA when I was 18.
- 5 This stuff is used to kill insects.
- 6 I don't use the car much any more.
- 7 We used to love going there on holiday.
- 8 I didn't use to live in Europe.

4.2 Listen and check. Then listen and repeat. Focus on the pronunciation of /ju:stə/.

## WRITING

### A COVERING LETTER; LEARN TO ORGANISE YOUR IDEAS

Put the covering letter in the correct order.

- ☐ Thank you for your consideration. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at vinniej22@gmail.com or 07788 922 123. I look forward to hearing from you 'soon'
- ☐ 1 Dear Ms Nelson,
- ☐ I believe that my communication skills, customer service abilities and positive work ethic would make me an asset to the shop.
- ☐ I am currently studying English at Exeter University and I am looking for summer work to help me finance my studies. <sup>2</sup>I think I would be good at this job. Firstly, I am both hard-working and organised, and I have excellent communication skills. Secondly, I have <sup>3</sup>shown that I am good at customer service. In my previous job, on the reception desk at Queen's Hospital, I had <sup>4</sup>practical experience of providing quality customer service and working with all types of people.
- ☐ Yours sincerely,
- ☐ I am writing to you <sup>5</sup>about the summer position at SunnySam's Electronics, advertised on www.summerjobs<sup>4</sup>students.com. <sup>6</sup>I want to apply for the post. I attach my CV, application form and all the information required in the advertisement.
- ☐ Vinnie Jessop

Replace the underlined sections 1–6 in the letter with the phrases in the box. Write the correct number.

hands-on ☐ at your earliest convenience ☐

regarding ☐ proven ability at ☐

I would like to submit an application ☐

I believe I meet all the requirements of the post ☐

Write a covering letter (120–180 words) for a summer job working as a restaurant/shop manager.