

A. My education

Two company managers, Kasia Gutowska and Nils Olsen, are talking.

KG: The trouble with **graduates** – people who've just left university – is that their **paper qualifications** are good. They might have **qualifications in** interesting subjects, but they have no **work experience**. They just don't know how business works.

NO: I disagree. Education should teach people how to think, not **train** them **for** a particular job. One of last year's recruits **graduated from** Oxford University **with a degree in** philosophy and she's doing very well!

KG: Philosophy's an interesting subject, but for our company, it's more useful to do **training in** a practical subject: it's better for us if you **train as** a scientist, and **qualify as** a biologist or a doctor, for example.

NO: Yes, but we don't just need scientists. We also need good managers, which we can achieve through **in-house training** – courses within the company. You know we put a lot of money into **management development**, where managers regularly **go on** specialized **courses in** leadership, finance, etc. You need to **acquire experience** – get knowledge through doing things – for that. It's not the sort of thing you can learn when you're 20!

Additional expressions

I studied/majored in.....

To do a degree in.....

To be a holder of bachelor/master.....in

B. Skills

Hard and soft skills

For a long time, **hard skills** – for example, skills in technical subjects – were considered the most important thing in business. But more and more, people are realising the importance of **soft skills** – the skills you need to work with other people, and in the case of managers, to manage people in **tactful** and **non-authoritarian**, non-dictatorial ways. These are some of the **emotional competencies** that are becoming important.



Your skills may be related to one of the following:

-Physical ability: wrestling, boxing, running for a long time, playing football/tennis/volleyball, swimming

- Technical abilities: designing a website, designing poster and other documents, programming, hacking, cracking,

- Social abilities: communicating with people, listening to people, advising people, working with people, persuading people

- Special abilities: singing, cooking, dancing, video games

- Language skills:

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Expressions used to talk about skills

- **S+ Can+ verb + complementation.**

I can programme a computer with Java.

- **To be (quite/very) good at + verb in ing form.....**
I am very good at playing football
- **To be (quite/very) good with+ noun**
Can you + verb +.....

I am very good with numbers

- **To be able to.....**
I am able to create a website.
- **To be skilled in/with**