

Listening task: First jobs

You will hear four friends talking about the first job they had. Choose the best answer.

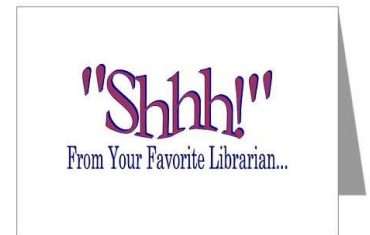
Jill

- 1- Jill first worked in a design studio as a
 - a) typist
 - b) designer
 - c) secretary
- 2- She left the job
 - a) while her boss was on holiday.
 - b) when her boss returned from holiday.
 - c) after she had returned from holiday.
- 3- A few weeks later, her boss wrote her a letter asking her to return,
 - a) which she did straight away.
 - b) which she did after considering it for a long time.
 - c) but she didn't.



David

- 4- David only enjoyed himself at the library
 - a) by putting books on the wrong shelves.
 - b) by guessing what books people were going to borrow.
 - c) by reading different books.



Richard

- 5- Richard worked as a postman in Berlin
 - a) before he started university.
 - b) while she was studying at university.
 - c) after graduating.
- 6- His journey to work took about
 - a) 30 minutes
 - b) 1 hour
 - c) 90 minutes
- 7- In comparison to English postmen, German postmen seemed to have
 - a) a more exciting job
 - b) more responsibilities
 - c) a more tiring job



Jocelyn

- 8- If Jocelyn didn't sell any encyclopedias, she
 - a) would be fired
 - b) didn't earn any money
 - c) had to work longer hours.
- 9- She found that the key to success in the job was
 - a) having a sense of humour.
 - b) going door to door very fast.
 - c) talking about encyclopedias as if she was an expert.
- 10- She earned enough to
 - a) buy a car.
 - b) pay for her education.
 - c) support her family.



Source: Adapted from Progress to First Certificate

Answer Key:

1C / 2 B / 3 C / 4 B / 5 A / 6 C / 7 B / 8 B / 9 A / 10 B

Script:

David: Do you remember the ...er... the very first job you ever had?

Jill: Yes, I certainly do. I wasn't very good at it, actually. Umm... it was as a secretary. I was supposed to be a secretary but I hadn't done very much secretarial training, and I went along – it was a design studio –and, in fact, I wanted to be a designer, so I was to sit around doing drawings all the time where I should have been typing letters, shorthand and typing. And ...er ... my boss went away for three weeks' holiday and there was ...um ...a horrible woman put in charge and ... er .. she was very nasty and got me into terrible trouble with my boss, who came back and gave me a big lecture and I ran home in tears and then I didn't go back and then several ... several weeks later I had a letter from him saying ' Please come back because the...' – now what did he call her? Something horrible, anyway – 'She's gone', he said.

David: So you went back?

Jill: 'And would you like to come back?' – No, I didn't. Tell me about yours.

David: Oh, mine...Oh, straight out from school I worked in a library for 6 months, which was so boring it was untrue and the ...the only excitement we got out of the day was seeing people come in the door which was at the far end and we would all decide between ourselves what sort of book they were going to take out, right? So they'd come up to the desk and you'd ... you'd sort of say, 'Oh, she 's going to get an Agatha Christie'. 'No, no, no, she's into cars', you know. And then, of course, it would turn out to be something totally different. We ... we used to have a point system, you know, you'd score points according to... Apart from that, I would never ever go back to work for a library, but what I do know now is how to get... how to find my way round in a library. So if you find yourself in a library you don't know, you can find your way around. That's the only part I enjoyed about it.

Richard: Well, the first job I had and certainly one of the best was straight after school and before I went to university. I had some months off and I was fixed up with a job in Berlin as a postman in ... in a ... a quarter of Berlin called Spandau. Er ... it was a lovely job. I find postmen the world over tend to be very friendly sort of people and the ... there were a group of us, Englishmen, in there and the German postmen were wonderful, they sorted all our mail for us and everything and took us round and got drunk with us after the round and ... and ... er it was strange for me 'cause I'm not used to getting up quite that early but I lived about an hour and a half away, the other side of the city. I had to get up at 5 in order to be there for 6:30, do the round and I was back in bed by about 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

Jocelyn: Was it well-paid?

Richard: Well, it... for someone who'd just left school it was quite well-paid, yes. Er...it was ... um ... and a German postman has to do far more than an English postman. They have to take the old-age pensions round and hand them out and collect various moneys and things, so it's a much more responsible job, and I was amazed that they were giving me all this responsibility – an English schoolboy, basically, carrying thousands of pounds around with me, accountable for it, in theory... but it was great fun.

Jocelyn: Well, my first job was about the same time really, I suppose. I was leaving school, but I ...made a lot of money but it was an awful job. It was selling encyclopedias door to door in the United States and the pressure to sell was incredible. I mean, you had to go back every night and ... and... and produce the goods and I found that I just used to burst into tears. I mean, they would drive you into an area that... where you didn't know the streets, you didn't know where you were, and they said, 'Well, we'll pick you up in four or five hours', and there was no sort of steady wage. You had to sell in order to make any kind of money at all. And at first I was so timid, I'd, you know, I'd ring the doorbell and I'd expect them to slam the door in my face and of course they did. And after a while I thought, 'The only thing that's going to save me is a sense of humour here'. So I would make jokes, I would run through the sprinklers on the lawn and this seemed to ... um ... interest them. So I found myself getting asked in and I would spend the evening talking about everything else other than encyclopedias and then sort of towards the end I'd sort of say, 'Oh, by the way,...' and they'd buy them. It would be ... yeah...

Richard: So you made a living out of it?

Jocelyn: Yeah, I did. Well, I put myself through college on it.

Richard: Fantastic!