

# Grammar Basics

Level B2 Pro



## Task One: Ethics in corporate life

You will hear a human resources manager talk about ethics in corporate life.

- You get marks in this practice test for writing the correct words with the correct spelling.
- You will hear the text three times:
  - ▶ First – you will hear the whole text.
  - ▶ Then – you will hear small pieces of the text.
  - ▶ These will each be repeated once.



## Task Two: The story of a shoe factory

- Complete the following article by choosing the most suitable word from the four options.

# Hey, do you need a pair of shoes?

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Eddie Hart has good reason to be happy. At eighty-five years of \_\_Example\_\_ he is one of Meckham's richest men, but Eddie didn't \_\_1\_\_ out that way.

“My parents and the whole family moved to Meckham just after the First World War. It wasn't an easy time to \_\_2\_\_ on in life, I can tell you. For a start, the family had no money. My father \_\_3\_\_ as a shoemaker in the market, and mother \_\_4\_\_ sell fish. I left school at twelve and went to help father; I really wanted to \_\_5\_\_ up the business even more, so I travelled looking for cheaper sources of leather all across the country.

“I \_\_6\_\_ up with the idea of not just mending shoes but making them. I \_\_7\_\_ some money from a family friend and opened the Meckham Shoe Factory. There was a huge demand for cheap shoes at that \_\_8\_\_, as many people were walking around either bare-foot or with wooden shoes. After the Second World War shoe sales boomed and I really started to make my fortune. By the 1980s we realised that there was no future in shoe making in the town, on account of cheap \_\_9\_\_ imports. That was the end for me. I \_\_10\_\_ down the factory and sold the land to a holiday company.”

**Questions for Task Two:**

Example: **A.** time      **B.** age      **C.** period      **D.** life

The correct answer is **B.**

1.    **A.** begin      **B.** commence      **C.** start      **D.** depart
2.    **A.** make      **B.** come      **C.** take      **D.** get
3.    **A.** engaged      **B.** worked      **C.** employed      **D.** served
4.    **A.** tried      **B.** employed      **C.** worked      **D.** helped
5.    **A.** take      **B.** bring      **C.** build      **D.** advance
6.    **A.** came      **B.** went      **C.** took      **D.** made
7.    **A.** borrowed      **B.** wanted      **C.** lent      **D.** undertook
8.    **A.** period      **B.** time      **C.** age      **D.** year
9.    **A.** outside      **B.** domestic      **C.** exterior      **D.** foreign
10.    **A.** ended      **B.** finished      **C.** closed      **D.** terminated



### Task Three: Flatrate tax in Britain? No, thank you

- Complete the following text by selecting for each numbered space one of the words from the box below.
- Use only **ONE** word for each space.



a	about	be	been	between	but	for
from	is	it	must	on	that	
the	those	through	to	was	which	while

## A flat-rate tax for Britain?

Income tax has been paid in Britain for more than two centuries. First introduced by William Pitt to finance the war against Napoleonic France, \_\_\_11\_\_\_ is the Treasury's biggest source of revenue, raising 30% of tax receipts.

During the past 30 years, income tax has \_\_\_12\_\_\_ subject to sweeping changes, notably the cuts in the top rate \_\_\_13\_\_\_ 98% to 40% under Margaret Thatcher \_\_\_14\_\_\_ 1979 and 1988. Now a commission is \_\_\_15\_\_\_ to be set up to explore the possible introduction of a flat-rate tax in Britain.

Flat-rate tax proponents say \_\_\_16\_\_\_ the reform would yield many economic benefits. It would simplify a tax system that \_\_\_17\_\_\_ over-complicated, although it would bring many low paid people into income tax for the first time.

Flat-rate tax fans think that it could trigger a new economic dynamism, as people respond \_\_\_18\_\_\_ the enhanced incentive to work harder. \_\_\_19\_\_\_ more this happens, the more the reform could pay \_\_\_20\_\_\_ itself with a bigger economy generating more tax revenues.

However, the proposal has an obvious flaw. It would result in an initial loss in revenue of £50 billion a year, which is a tenth of all government revenue.