Innovation English Integrated Course Book 3

**Unit Six**

**Transitions in Life**

**Objectives**

**Students will be able to:**

1. Obtain the general idea (Strive to get the best job offers from the best employers, but remember to temper everything you do with a realistic vision ) and the structure.
2. Acquire the important words and key grammar point in the article.
3. Acquire the key language points and grammatical structures in the text;

4. Participate in a series of reading, listening, speaking and writing activities related to the theme of the unit.

**Suggested Teaching Steps**

Lead-in

Text A

* Detailed Study
* Structure

After-reading

Additional Materials

**Lead-in**

**Directions: *Please watch the video clip and answer the questions.***

1. According to the video, are transitions in life light and easy?

2. What examples does the speaker give of major transitions in life?

3. What suggestions does the speaker give to people who are going through transitions?

***Tips:***

1. No, transitions are tense and hard.

2. A relationship breakup, getting fired, moving to a new city, etc.

3. Be really intentional in the transition process. Don’t try to rush through it. You may need to create a new normal instead of going back to the way it was.

**Text A Making a Successful Transition from University to Career: Time for a Reality Check**

1 For many seniors, the time leading up to university graduation and the start of a first job is often chaotic and stressful. You are trying to complete your university career while dealing with the demands of job-hunting, interviews, and facing the reality of the end of schooling (at least for the foreseeable future).

In all our discussions with university seniors and recent university graduates, some issues arise time and time again as the keys to making a successful transition from life as a student to life as a productive employee. Understanding these

issues and being prepared for them before they occur should help you make a smoother transition.

Are you ready for a reality check? Here are some critical issues facing you in the near future.

**Professionalism in the Workplace**

4 Professionalism deals with dependability and being a self-starter. “There are some things that you just have to figure out or experience on your own. That’s called personal accountability,” a business-school grad told us. “A graduate will never have all the answers, and rightly so. You should always have the zeal to seek out new knowledge and learn from your mistakes. That is what creates uniqueness and personal character.”

**Finding Employment Probably Won’t Be Easy**

5 Perhaps it’s because most of today’s university students grew to adulthood in a period of unsurpassed prosperity and growth, it seems to be a harsh reality to many university seniors and recent grads that obtaining a job offer is very time-consuming and a lot of work — and it’s even harder to obtain the ideal scenario of having multiple job offers.

6 As most experienced job-seekers already know, you have to spend time every day looking for employment. Use all available resources, tracking down all job leads, and following up on all leads and interviews. Generally speaking, the more quality work you put into your job search, the better your results.

7 One other common misconception of university students is the over-reliance on the Internet and passive job-hunting to find employment. The Internet should really receive only a small portion of your job-search time. Instead, most of your efforts should still be using the traditional methods of networking — with family and friends, other students, alumni (especially recent alumni), professors, former co-workers and bosses, etc.

**Don’t Be So Full of Yourself**

8 Having a university degree does not entitle you to a job, and it’s best to convince yourself now that most employers willnot be as impressed with your grades or your education as you are with them. “As a cum laude graduate, I thought I was entitled to a great job right out of university,” a 2000 marketing grad told us. “Well after two years, with five jobs in three cities, I THINK I’ve found the job that I was expecting to get after graduation!” Attending a name school or having an extremely high grade-point average are definitely selling points in your favor, but not something you solely rely on to get a job.

9 Focus less on why employers should be so impressed with your credentials that they should be hunting you down — and more on how you can use your talent and initiative to make a contribution to the employer’s bottom line. Be sure to tell the employer how you will make a strong contribution.

**University Grads Get Entry-Level Jobs**

10 One of the harsh realities that many new grads face — especially in the bad job markets — is that a large number of the jobs available for university grads are, in fact, entry-level. These jobs often require long hours, low pay, and hard work.

11 Some recent grads have turned up their noses at job offers because of the sense that the jobs were below them; perhaps the jobs required helping stock shelves or traveling too much.

12 This advice is not meant to imply that you should take the first job offer you get — or any job offer you get — just be realistic in your expectations. Most employers want to see all employees start at a certain level to better understand the business — with the university grads. on a career track toward faster advancement. So, just do your research about employers before jumping to conclusions about the value of certain types of jobs.

13 Do be ambitious about moving beyond the entry level, but not at the expense of your current job. As another business-school grad told us, “Former co-workers of mine became so obsessed with finding a better job that they forgot about the responsibilities of their current positions.”

**Final Thoughts**

14 Strive to get the best job offers from the best employers, but remember to temper everything you do with a realistic vision of what to really expect — in the job-hunt and in getting job offers. Take to heart the advice from all the recent university grads that have come before you and been in your shoes — and you’ll be better prepared and more satisfied with your job-search.

**Detailed Study**

**1) (Para. 1) For many seniors, the time *leading up to* university graduation and the start of a first job is often chaotic and *stressful*:** Many seniors feel busy, confused and worried during the time before graduation and the start of a first job.

【译文】对于很多大四学生来说，即将大学毕业，开始第一份工作前的这段时间通常既混乱又紧迫。

**lead up to:** if a series of events or a period of time leads up to an event, it comes before it or causes it 临近；

▲▲创新 *e.g.* Many students preferred to study in the library in the weeks leading up to the exams.

The book describes the trial and the events leading up to it.

**lead to:** to cause sth. to happen or cause sb. to do sth. 导致，产生

*e.g.* Smoking can lead to lung cancer.

Every failure, or every mistake, may lead to good results under certain conditions.

**lead: *n.*** a piece of information that may help to find out the truth or facts about a situation 线索

*e.g.* The police haven’t got a single lead yet.

**stressful: *adj.*** causing a lot of anxiety and worry 紧张的，压力大的

*e.g.* It was a very stressful time for all of us.

**stress: *n.*** 压力；强调；重音

*e.g.* His tuition fees place great stress on his parents.

He feels that there is not enough stress on drama at the school.

Stress and rhythm are important in speaking English.

**stress: *v.*** 强调；重读；施加压力于

*e.g.* The employer stressed the importance of the applicants having a good educational background.

Stress the second syllable.

The weight of snow stressed the roof to the point of collapsing.

**2) (Para. 2) … some issues *arise* time and time again as the keys to making a successful transition from life as a student to life as a productive employee:** some matters appear repeatedly, which are essential to transforming successfully from university students into efficient employees.

【译文】……有些问题经常出现，对学生成功转型到高效职员非常关键。

**arise: *vi.*** (arose, arisen) (1) to become evident; to appear; to happen 出（呈）现；发生

*e.g.* More problems like those at the nuclear power plant are certain to arise.

Unexpected difficulties arose in the course of their experiment.

(2) **(~ from/out of)** to follow as a result of sth.引起，产生

*e.g.* Can we begin by discussing matters arising from the last meeting?

The trouble arose out of the policy of racial segregation.

**3) (Para. 4) You should always have the zeal to *seek out* new knowledge and learn from your mistakes:** You should always be enthusiastic about searching for new knowledge on your own and learning from the mistakes you make.

【译文】你应该满怀激情地去学习新知识，从错误中吸取教训。

**seek out:** to try to find sb./sth., especially when this is difficult 找（搜）出

*e.g.* Our mission is to seek out the enemy and destroy them.

The director said that he would seek out methods for raising production.

**it 6**

**4) (Para. 5) Perhaps it’s because most of today’s university students grew to adulthood in a period of *unsurpassed prosperity* and growth, it seems to be a *harsh* reality to many university seniors and recent grads that obtaining a job offer is very *time-consuming* and a lot of work — and it’s even harder to obtain the ideal scenario of having multiple job offers:** Maybe the reason is that most of the university students have been brought up in a time of such an unprecedentedly prosperous and thriving economic environment that it’s hard for them to face and accept the cruel situation of job-seeking in which they have to spend much time and energy getting a job offer, and it’s even harder for them to get a handful of job opportunities.

【译文】或许是因为，今天的大学生大多在前所未有的优越环境中长大，所以对很多大四学生和刚毕业的学生来说，获得一份就业机会要消耗大量的时间和精力，这似乎是个残酷的现实——而得到多个工作机会的理想更是难以实现。

**unsurpassed: *adj.*** better or greater than anyone or anything else 无与伦比的；出类拔萃的

*e.g.* My country is blessed with unsurpassed natural resources.

**surpass: *v.*** to do or be better than sb./sth. 超过，超越

*e.g.* He hopes one day to surpass the world record.

The beauty of the scenery surpassed all my expectations.

**prosperity: *n.*** the state of being economically successful or rich; good fortune 兴旺，繁荣

*e.g.* Our future prosperity depends on economic growth.

The country is enjoying a period of peace and prosperity.

**prosper: *v.*** to succeed or thrive繁荣，兴旺

*e.g.* The country is prospering under a strong government.

**prosperous: *adj.*** financially successful or thriving; rich 繁荣的，兴旺的

*e.g.* The city at one time must have been prosperous.

**harsh: *adj.*** (1) cruel, severe and unkind 严酷的，无情的

*e.g.* We had to face up to the harsh realities of life sooner or later.

(2) (of weather or living conditions) very difficult and unpleasant 恶劣的，艰苦的

*e.g.* a harsh winter/wind/climate

Much of the country was affected by harsh weather.

**time-consuming: *adj.*** taking or needing a lot of time 费时的

*e.g.* The research involved going through a complex and time-consuming process.

Some of the more time-consuming jobs can now be done by machines.

注意复合形容词的构成： *n.* + *v.* (present participle) peace-loving 热爱和平的

*adj.* + *v.* (present participle) long-suffering 长期遭受痛苦的

*adv.* + *v.* (present participle) never-ending 永久的

**5) (Para. 6) Use all available *resources*, *tracking down* all job leads …:** Make use of all the resources at hand, searching out all information about jobs …

【译文】动用一切可利用的资源，查询所有求职线索……

**resource: *n.*** a supply of sth. that a country, organization, or person has and can use 资源

*e.g.* Immeasurable quantities of natural resources were lost forever through misuse.

The objective of resource management is to conserve our resources.

**source: *n.*** (1) place from which sth. comes or is obtained 来源；出处

*e.g.* They are required to publish the sources of their campaign funds.

Is the water polluted at source or further downstream?

(2) a person, book, or document that supplies you with information 原始资料，提供资料的人

*e.g.* news from a reliable source

He cited many sources for his book.

**track down:** to find sb./sth. that is difficult to find by searching or looking for information in several different places 搜寻到，追查到

*e.g.* The police have so far failed to track down the attacker.

I finally tracked down the reference in a book of quotations.

**6) (Para. 7) The Internet should really receive only a small *portion* of your job-search time:** You should spend only a small part of your job-search time on the Internet.

【译文】互联网搜索应只占求职时间的一小部分。

**portion: *n*.** (1) a part of sth. larger, especially a part that is different from the other parts 部分

*e.g.* Only a small portion of the budget is spent on books.

You must accept a portion of the blame for this crisis.

(2) an amount of food that is large enough for one person 一份（客）

*e.g.* She cut the pie into six portions.

He was hungry and ordered two portions of roast duck.

**7) (Para. 8) … it’s best to convince yourself now that most employers will not be *as impressed with* your grades or your education as you are with them:** … you’d better get yourself ready because most employers will not be impressed with your grades or your education in the way that you are impressed with your grades or your education.

【译文】……你最好现在就要做好准备，因为大多数的雇主不会像你一样对你所取得的成绩和所受的教育程度有这么深的印象。

**be impressed with:** 对……印象深刻

*e.g.* We were most impressed with your efficiency.

I was very impressed with her performance.

**8) (Para. 8) Attending a “*name*” school or having an extremely high grade-point average are definitely selling points *in your favour*, but not something you *solely* rely on to get a job:** You certainly have advantages if you graduate from a famous school or have excellent marks for academic achievement, but you cannot depend only on them to find a job.

【译文】毕业于名牌大学或平均成绩极高的确会给你加分不少，但你不能仅仅依靠这些来找到一份工作。

**name: *adj.*** well-known by its name 著名的

*e.g.* He graduated from a name university.

The Red Tower is a name brand in tobacco industries.

**in sb.’s favour:** to the advantage of sb. 对某人有利

*e.g.* The exchange rate is in our favour at the moment.

Conditions on court are very much in Williams’ favour.

**in favour of:** support, approval, or agreement for sth. such as a plan, an idea, or a system 支持，赞成，同意

*e.g.* There were 16 votes in favour of my suggestion, and 15 against.

The judge decided in favour of the plaintiff.

**solely: *adv.*** only 仅仅，完全

*e.g.* I read the book solely for pleasure.

The mention of control methods is solely for the information of readers.

The boy picked up the purse, solely out of curiosity.

**9) (Para. 9) … more on how you can use your talent and initiative to make a contribution to the employer’s *bottom line*:** … focus more on how you can make profits for your employer with your talent and innovation.

【译文】更多地关注该如何利用你的才智和首创精神为老板赢利。

**bottom line:** (1) the profit or the amount of money that a business makes or loses 利润，盈亏

*e.g.* The bottom line for last year was a pre-tax profit of $70 million.

(2) the most important thing to be considered; the essential point in a discussion, etc. 基本要求，底线

*e.g.* The bottom line for government officials is to keep away from corruption.

The bottom line is that we have to increase our sales or take a cut in pay.

**10) (Para. 11) Some recent grads have *turned up their noses at* job offers because of the sense that the jobs were below them:** Some recent grads refuse to accept the jobs offered because they think the jobs are not good enough for them.

【译文】一些刚毕业的学生看不上那些工作，感觉有失身份。

**turn up one’s nose at**: to refuse to accept sth. because you do not think it is good enough for you 瞧不起，看不上

*e.g.* Nowadays some young people turn up their noses at traditional home cooking.

**11) (Para. 12) … just be realistic in your *expectations*:** … be realistic about what jobs you can find.

【译文】只是你的期望值要切合实际。

**expectation: *n.*** (1) what you think or hope will happen 预期；期待

*e.g.* For the rest of her life, she lived with the expectation that her son would come back.

(2) a feeling or belief about the way something should be or how someone should behave 期望；指望

*e.g.* Some students have unrealistic expectations of their future careers.

**12) (Para. 12) So, just do your research about employers before *jumping to conclusions* about the value of certain types of jobs:** So, you need to collect some information about employers and get to know the value of the jobs before you make a hasty decision.

【译文】因此，在对某些职业是否有价值仓促下结论前，最好对雇主的情况做些调查。

**jump to conclusions:** to form an opinion about sth. before you have all the facts 草率（仓促）下结论

*e.g.* But they warned against jumping to conclusions until more is known.

Let’s read between the lines and not jump to conclusions.

**13) (Para. 13) Do be *ambitious* about moving beyond the entry level, but not *at the expense of* your current job:** You should be determined to surpass the lowest level and move to a higher position, but without doing any harm to your present job.

【译文】当然，你要有抱负去做更高层次的工作，但不要因此而有损目前的工作。

**ambitious: *adj.*** determined to be successful, rich, powerful, etc. 有雄心的，有抱负的

*e.g.* Robert has always been an ambitious and hard-working manager.

He then attempted something more ambitious, a novel of 200,000 words.

**ambition: *n.*** 野心，抱负

*e.g.* Her son was filled with the ambition to become a great inventor.

**at the expense of:** with loss or damage to sb./sth. 以……为代价

*e.g.* He built up the business at the expense of his health.

She completed the work at the expense of her health.

**go to the expense of sth./of doing sth.:** 不惜代价，花费

*e.g.* They went to all the expense of redecorating the house and then they moved.

**14) (Para. 13) “Former co-workers of mine became so *obsessed with* finding a better job…”:** “Former

colleagues of mine were so occupied with looking for a better job …”

【译文】“我以前的同事老想着要找到一份更好的工作……”

**obsess: *vt.* (be obsessed by/with sth./sb.)** to think or worry about sth. all the time and cannot think about

anything else 使着迷，使困扰

*e.g.* He’s obsessed by computers.

She’s completely obsessed with him.

The need to produce the most exciting newspaper story obsesses most journalists.

**15) (Para. 14) *Take to heart* the advice from all the recent university grads that have come before you and been *in your shoes*…:** Follow the advice from all the recent university grads because they have experienced

the same situation.

【译文】牢记那些早你一步毕业，和你处境相似的学生给你的忠告。

**take sth. to heart:** to consider what sb. says to you very seriously, often because it affects or upsets you 认真考虑

*e.g.* Take to heart the instructions from the engineer when you run the machine.

Anne took his criticisms very much to heart.

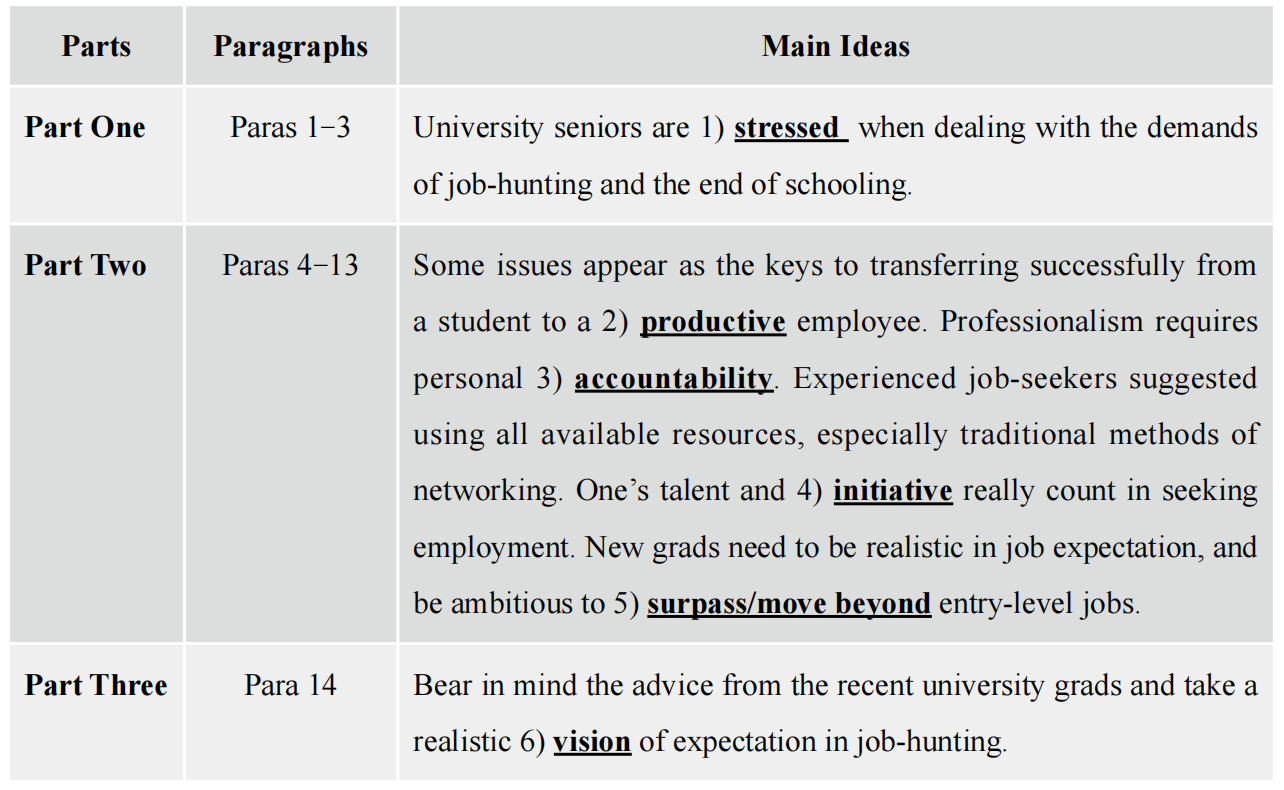
**in sb.’s shoes:** in sb. else’s situation, especially a bad one 处于某人的境地；设身处地

*e.g.* I wouldn’t like to be in your shoes when they find out about it.

If I were in your shoes, I’d resign immediately.

**Structure**

**Directions: The text can be divided into three parts. Now fill in the blanks with appropriate words from the text to complete the main idea of each part.**



**After Reading**

**Directions: *Choose the answer that best completes each sentence or answers each question.***

1) Confusion and stress felt by the seniors before they graduate from the university are thought to be \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) hard to understand

**B) unavoidable problems**

C) impossible to deal with

D) easy to overcome

2) Which of the following statements is NOT true about professionalism?

A) Professionalism means learning from mistakes.

B) Professionalism means learning the new knowledge on one’s own.

**C) Professionalism means being dependent and a self-starter.**

D) Professionalism means creating unique personal characters.

3) Which of the following should NOT occupy a large portion of your job-search time?

A) Job leads.

B) Interviews.

C) Networking.

**D) Internet.**

4) What should the new grads focus more on when they seek job offers?

**A) Trying to impress employers with their own ability and innovation.**

B) Trying to impress employers with the “name” of the university they graduate from.

C) Trying to impress employers with their credentials.

D) Trying to impress employers with their high grade-point average.

5) It is not advisable to reject entry-level jobs without doing research about employers because \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) entry-level jobs require little effort though they offer low pay

B) entry-level jobs are below the ability of the job-seekers

C) there are only entry-level jobs available

**D) entry-level jobs may put the university grads on a career track for their advancement**

**Key to Exercises—Vocabulary**

**1.**

1) resources 2) strive 3) transition 4)unsurpassed 5) vision.

6)chaotic 7) prosperity 8)initiative 9) portion 10) implies

**2.**

1)His business was very successful, but it was at the expense of his family life.

2) These are problems that cannot be resolved in the foreseeable future.

3) His best friend kept him company in the weeks leading up to his death.

4) I hope you will take to heart the warning you have been given.

5)Investors are hoping that the new regulations will operate in their favor.

6)They warned against jumping to conclusions until more is known.

7) If I were in your shoes, I would resign immediately.

8) I finally managed to track down the book you wanted in a shop near the station.

**Key to Exercises—Structure**

**1.**

1) at the expense of others ( 牺牲别人 ).

2) at the expense of my family ( 损害我家人的利益 ).

3) As might be expected ( 正如人们所预料的 )

4)as the name implies ( 正如其名字所暗示的 )

**2.**

1)When doing any language skills work in the classroom, we need to be aware of the cultural content of the texts.

2)Before being in the army, he was the general manager of a well-known company.

3)After discussing the issue among ourselves, we’ll have to submit it for approval by the committee.

4)While crossing the mountain area, all the men carried guns lest they should be attacked by wild

animals.

5)By working hard, you will increase your chances of passing the entrance examination.

**Key to Exercises—Cloze**

1. F traits 2) O deviate 3) H crucial 4) C editing 5) D versus

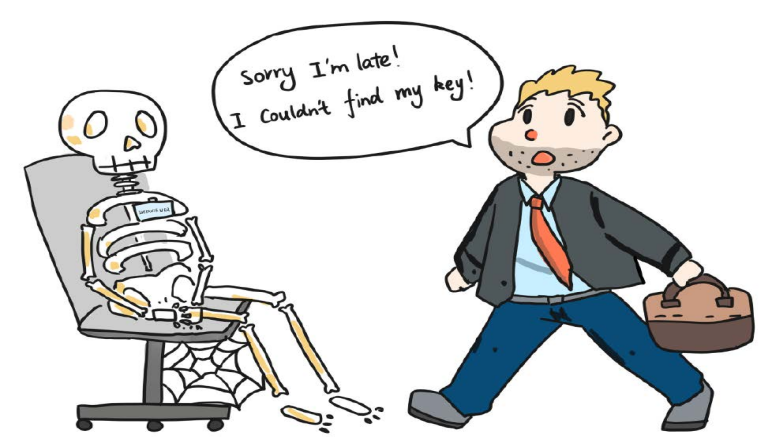
6) J opportunities 7) N eliminate 8) A distracted9) E worthwhile 10) K achieved

**Key to Exercises—Translation**

Nowadays, more and more university graduates complain about having great difficulties in finding a good job. The reasons for this phenomenon are as follows: First, university students spend most of their time at school studying academic subjects and it is only when they start hunting for a job that they realize they lack necessary professional training. Second, competition among job-seekers has become fiercer, which leads to a decreased prospect for any individual graduate to find a job. Therefore, it is highly suggested that university students should do some part-time jobs in different workplaces in their spare time to accumulate relevant working experience

**After-reading Activity 1**

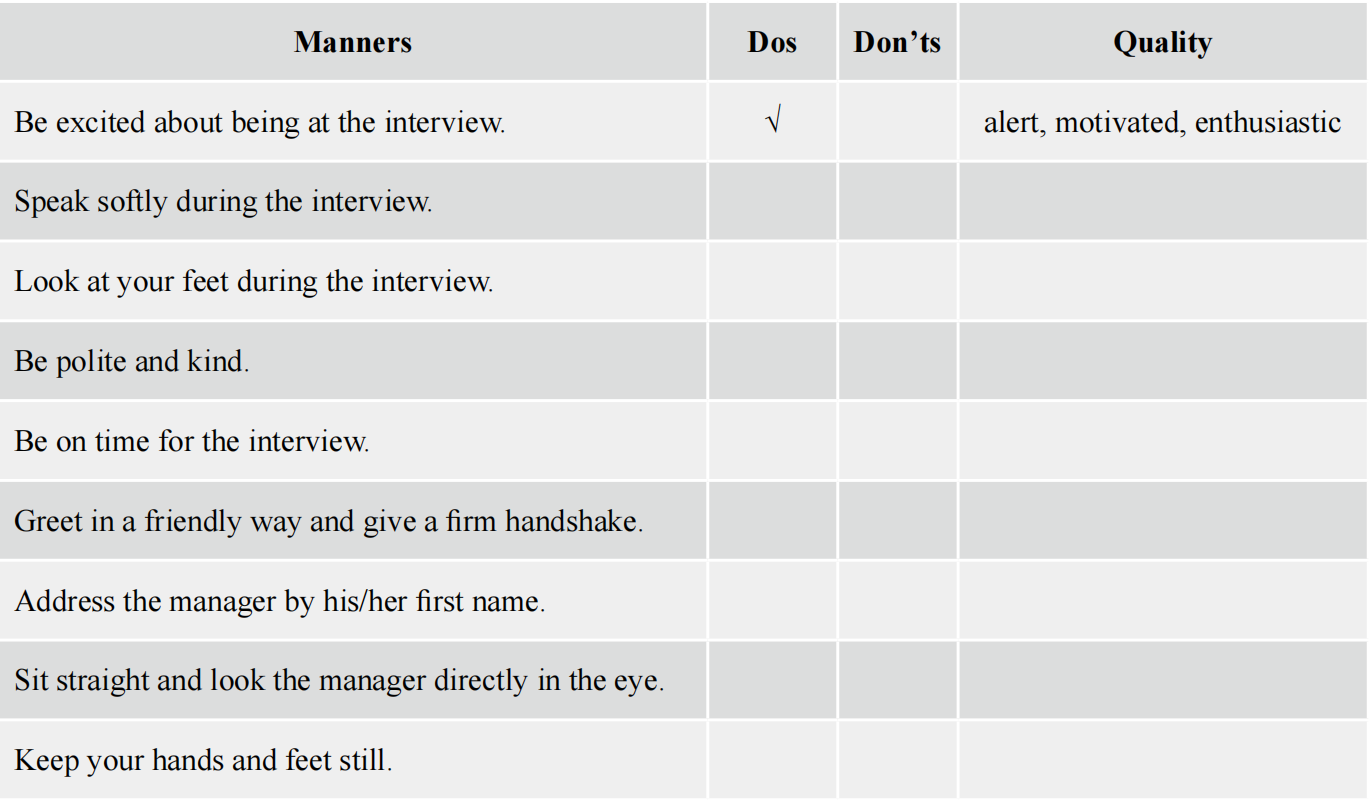
**Directions: *How do you make a good impression in a job interview and get the job? The following pictures may give you some hints. Describe the pictures and share your opinions with your classmates.***



**After-reading Activity 2**

**Directions: *There are a lot of Dos & Don’ts in an interview. Listen to the passage and fill in the table below. Add at***

***least three good or bad manners in an interview and explain the reasons.***



**Script:**

Having a good attitude and good manners is important both at an interview and on the job. Managers agree that a person’s attitude can be more important than their work experience. Your attitude makes a big difference. If you are excited about being at the interview and are eager to be hired for the job, the employer will probably consider you for the job.

If you speak softly and look at your feet during the interview, the employer may not consider you for the job. Managers are looking for someone who is alert, motivated and enthusiastic.

Using good manners at an interview and at your work is very important. The way you act tells a great deal to an employer. If you’re polite and kind, it says that you get along with people and you have a respect for seniority, company managers and supervisors.

One of the first manners an employer will look for is punctuality, being on time for the interview. This indicates whether you’re reliable and will be to work on time. Being late for an interview could hurt your chances of being hired.

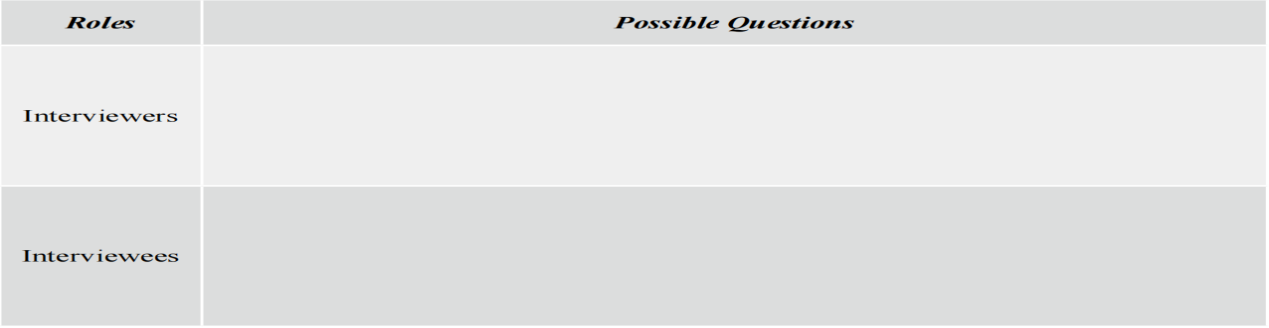
When you meet the manager, smile. Then, offer a friendly greeting. Give the manager a firm handshake. Address the manager as Mr. or Ms. unless he or she asks you to call him or her by first name. This shows that you have respect for the manager’s position.

Also, look at the manager directly in the eye, not down at your feet. During the interview, sit up straight in the chair. It shows that you’re alert and interested.

Keep your hands and feet still during the interview. And, never chew gum.

**After-reading Activity 3**

**Directions: *Break up into pairs and create a dialogue of a job interview. Use the table below to help you organize your ideas.***

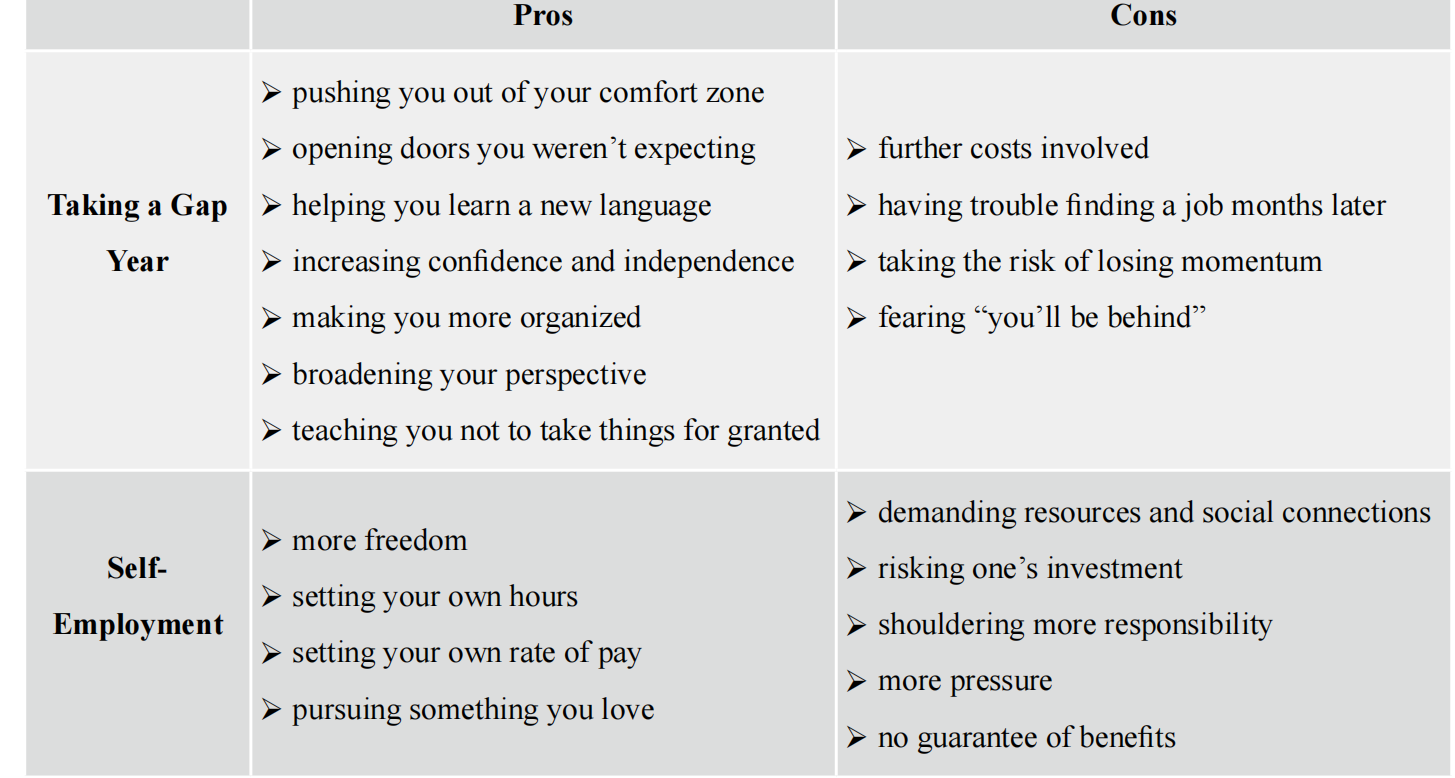


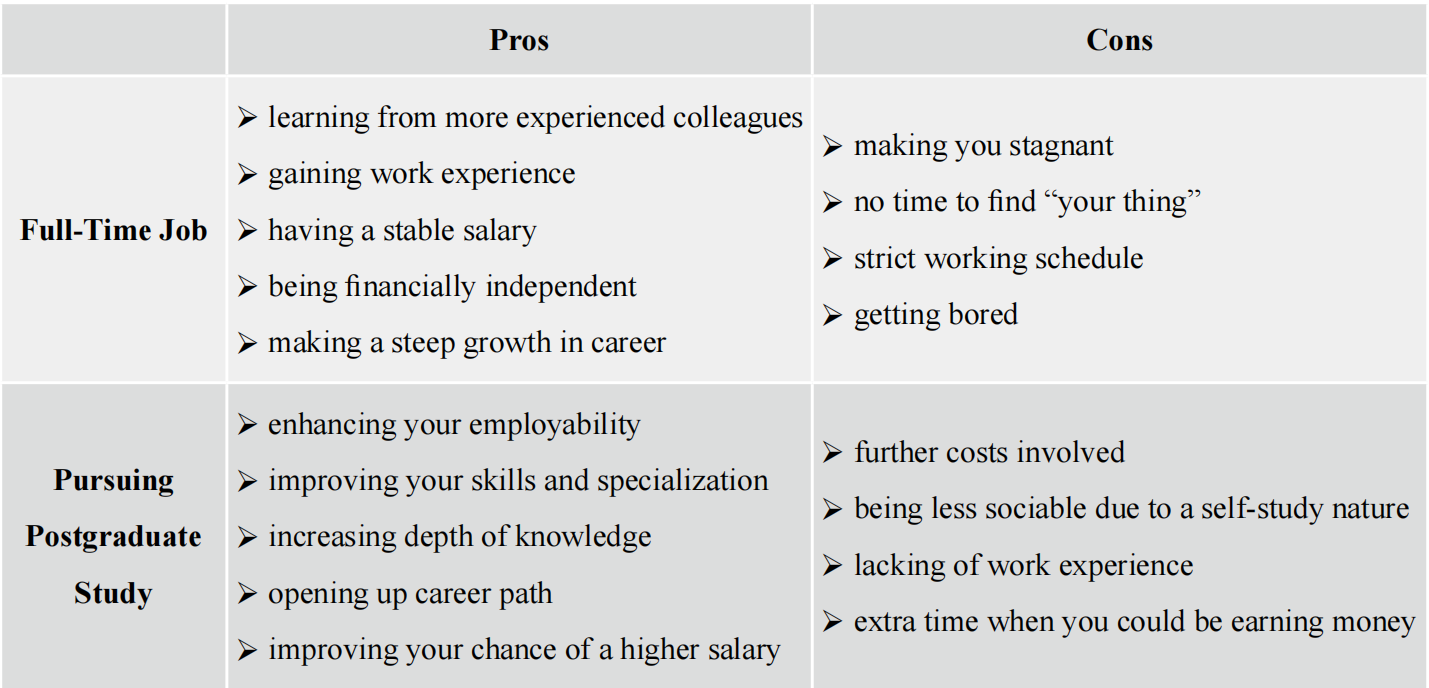
**Additional Materials**

**Activity One**

**Directions: *Turning those “what are you going to do after graduation” questions into reality can be exciting but also scary. Have you already planned your life after graduation? Look at the options below and list the pros and cons.***

**Tips:**





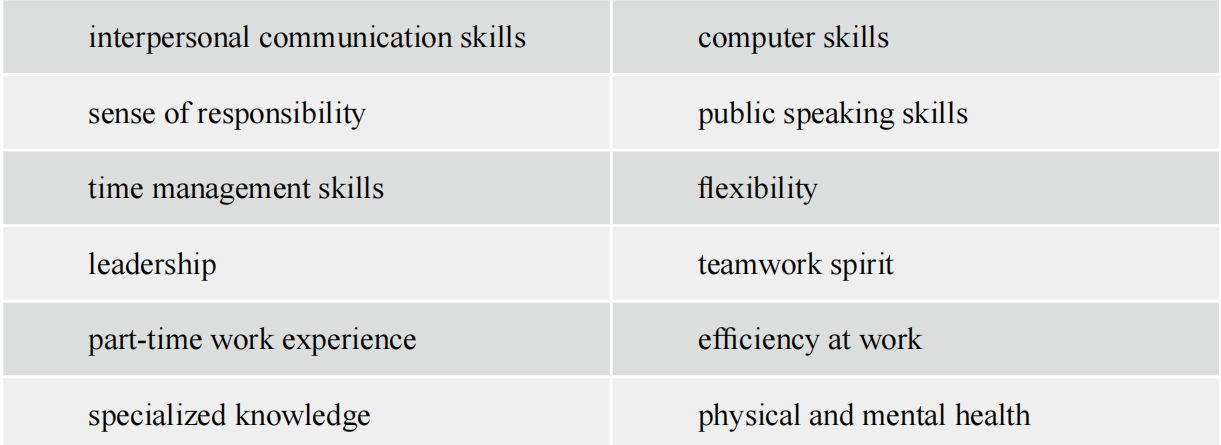
**Activity Two**

**Directions: *When deciding on whether a new job is right for you, there are many factors to consider. Please rank the factors listed below in order of importance and explain your reasons.***



**Activity Three**

***Directions: Very few university students jump straight from university into their dream jobs. There are some qualities that can make the transition easier. Work in groups, and choose three qualities from the table below that you think are the most helpful in making the transition from university to the workplace smooth. Explain why you think that they are important and tell what you have done or will do to obtain them.***



**Background information**

**1**. **Career**

The following definitions are important to an understanding of “career” as a concept.

A JOB is a paid position requiring a group of specific attributes and skills that enable a person to perform

tasks in an organization either part-time or full-time for a short or long duration.

An OCCUPATION is defined as a group of similar jobs found in different industries or organizations.

A CAREER is the sequence and variety of occupations (paid and unpaid) which one undertakes throughout a

lifetime. More broadly, career includes life roles, leisure activities, learning and work.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT is the process of managing life, learning and work over the lifespan.

CAREER GUIDANCE is an inclusive term that has been used to describe a range of interventions including career education and counselling that help people to move from a general understanding of life and work to a specific understanding of the realistic life, learning and work options that are open to them. Career guidance is often thought to incorporate career information, career education and career counselling.

**2. Cum laude**

Cum laude is a Latin term (literally meaning “with praise”) used to indicate a high level of academic distinction at the time of graduation. Along with other academic honours, it is used in many parts of the world and no standard system governs how it is used. Schools decide how to award honours on an individual basis. Typically, to graduate cum laude, a student must maintain excellent grades, complete a supplemental honours thesis, and participate in honours courses. In some nations, students who wish to achieve a cum laude designation on their diplomas must also complete a series of special exams.

When a student graduates cum laude, this is written on his or her diploma. Generally, students also indicate their cum

laude status in applications to other schools and on an employment résumé, since it suggests a high level of achievement. In the United States, undergraduates and graduate students are eligible to graduate with this honour, while in other nations, undergraduates are not awarded this type of honour, or a different naming system is used. In general, secondary schools do not

use a system of Latin honours to recognize distinctive students, utilizing a separate honours system instead.

**3. Entry-level Job**

An entry-level job is a job that is suitable for someone entering work for the first time. Such jobs generally require little skill, knowledge, or previous experience and are generally lower paid. These jobs often require some on-site training. Entry-level jobs may be short-term or part-time, and do not necessarily include employee benefits. Recent graduates from high school or university usually take entry-level positions.

Entry-level jobs which are targeted at university graduates often offer a higher salary. These positions are more likely to require specific skills and knowledge. Most entry-level jobs offered to university graduates are fulltime permanent positions