

6 | Progress test

Complete these sentences with appropriate prepositions.

- 1 We've run _____ big difficulties in our Far East market.
- 2 We should look _____ the same old solutions and try and find a really novel way of doing this.
- 3 We thought the idea would really take off, but in the end it just fell _____ the wayside.
- 4 One way companies try to stay _____ _____ the competition is by spying on them.
- 5 Let's bounce _____ a few ideas and see what we come up with.
- 6 It's a great product, but without adequate marketing support it'll never get _____ the ground.
- 7 The project manager's been ill, but now he's here I think we'll get _____ _____ track pretty quickly.
- 8 It's not easy to think _____ the box when you're surrounded by unimaginative people.
- 9 They're trying to figure _____ why the press conference went so badly.

Complete the conversation with the missing words.

- A It's not ¹⁰c_____ to me what you mean by 'further training'.
- B Well, I was thinking along the ¹¹i_____ of a course in creative thinking for all line managers.
- A That's not such a bad idea. But I can't help ¹²w_____ if it's really going to be effective.
- B So you're suggesting that some of our managers are hopeless cases?
- A Well, not exactly, but I'm ¹³c_____ about how some of our more senior managers will respond to that kind of course. You can't teach an old dog new tricks!
- B Well, ¹⁴s_____ we were to offer a half-day seminar in the company to start off with? Then we could evaluate who is or isn't responding well to the method.
- A Yes, I quite like that idea. And there'd be nothing ¹⁵s_____ us from pulling out the plug after that first session, would there?
- B Well, no, I guess not. It's certainly ¹⁶w_____ thinking about.

Match verbs from A to nouns in B to answer these questions.

- | | | | | | |
|---|--------|-----------|---------|-----------------|------------|
| A | cause | demand | undergo | control | outperform |
| B | change | precision | costs | the competition | a stir |

- 17 What does a political scandal normally do?
- 18 What does a good quality manager do?
- 19 If you are the best company in your field, what do you do?
- 20 What's the key to good financial management?
- 21 What don't many employees like to do?

Complete these dialogues with an adverb from the list.

- | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|------|---------|----------|
| obviously | surprisingly | just | totally | actually |
|-----------|--------------|------|---------|----------|

- A You've never been there, have you?
- B ²²_____, I have. I went last year.
- A So that was the situation at the end of the year.
- B Sorry, could you ²³_____ run through the figures for the last quarter again?
- A So what do you think?
- B Well, I can't say I'm ²⁴_____ enthusiastic about the idea
- A They didn't ask a single question after my presentation.
- B No, they didn't, ²⁵_____. I wonder why.
- A I thought he handled the negotiation very well.
- B Yes, it's ²⁶_____ not the first time he's done something like that.

Complete the conversation with phrases from the list.

- | |
|---|
| It's difficult for me to explain really |
| It just needs a bit more |
| I'm trying to think how |
| you're on the right track |

About your proposal for how to make our company more innovative, I'd say ²⁷_____ and it's definitely what we're looking for, but I disagree with some of the ideas you have. ²⁸_____ I could help you – maybe you could talk to my partner, as he's spent a lot of time on this. ²⁹_____, but I feel you've focused too much on creative ideas. ³⁰_____ on technical training really.

Result _____ / 30 marks

Role cards

Copy this page and cut out the role cards for the students. Students should do both role-plays. Then use the *Speaking test results* forms to evaluate each student's performance. You can then cut out the results and give them to the students.

Cut along this line

Student A

- You want to improve morale in your company and you think you could do this by improving employees' health and fitness.
 - Put forward your idea to B.
 - Clarify your idea – you'd like to introduce healthy menus in the canteen and put up posters with tips for healthy living in the offices.
 - Evaluate your partner's idea and give a positive or negative reaction.
- Listen to B's idea for making the company more innovative.
 - Ask B to clarify the idea.
 - You like the idea.
 - Build on the idea – suggest that you offer creativity development seminars, or bonuses to employees who come up with interesting ideas for the company.

Student B

- Listen to A's idea for your company.
 - Ask A to clarify the idea.
 - You like the idea.
 - Build on the idea – suggest that employees could finish early on Fridays and sports activities could be organized, e.g. football games or running.
- You'd like to make the company more innovative and bring out the creative side of people in the company by offering them time during work to develop this.
 - Put forward your idea to your A.
 - Clarify your idea – you'd like to create a space or room that's brightly painted, with games, paper, pens, etc. Employees could go there and share creative ideas.
 - Evaluate your partner's idea and give a positive or negative reaction.

Cut along this line

Speaking test results

Use these forms to evaluate the students.

Cut along this line

Student A

Can the student ...	Didn't do this (0 points)	Yes, but with some mistakes (1 point)	Yes, did this very well (2 points)
put forward an idea?			
ask for clarification?			
clarify an idea?			
build on an idea?			
evaluate an idea?			

Result _____ / 10 marks

Student B

Can the student ...	Didn't do this (0 points)	Yes, but with some mistakes (1 point)	Yes, did this very well (2 points)
put forward an idea?			
ask for clarification?			
clarify an idea?			
build on an idea?			
evaluate an idea?			

Result _____ / 10 marks

Cut along this line