

CAREER LADDER



<https://researchstudentcareers.files.wordpress.com/2013/11/career-ladder.jpg>

OVERVIEW

- **Reading:**
Midlife Class Career
- **Language Work:**
Verb Patterns
- **Skills:**
Giving Suggestion
- **Applied Writing:**
Conclusion of Paragraph

Getting Ready

A. Before reading, discuss these questions.

1. In your organisation, or one you would like to join, is there a clear career ladder?

2. What must you do to succeed in climbing the ladder?

3. What do you understand by 'midlife crisis'?

4. What are the signs that someone is having one?

B. Which of the following statements do you agree/disagree with? Why?

a. Your learning experience in the school/college will help you in most of your jobs?

b. The more years you spend in a certain company, the more comfortable you are in doing the works.

c. Since you've been working for a long time, you will certainly step up to the next position in your career.

Word Power

A. Match the terms and the definitions. DO NOT check your dictionary.

The Terms

1. Fresh challenge
2. Prospects
3. Pay-rise
4. Take over
5. Retire

The Definition

- a. Future possibilities in the job
- b. Stop working completely
- c. A new exciting situation
- d. Getting more money
- e. Handle

B. Complete the sentences below with the terms from the task above.

1. Dodit had only a small stall in a market. He then _____ most of the stalls.
2. Doing the same job over and over again makes me bored, I need _____
3. Having an international-scale company, the CEO _____ at the age of 55, a very rich man.
4. Sania worked hard at the company and her _____ looked good.
5. He always complained about his salary, after a year, he finally got _____

C. It is still about the verbs you got in Section A but the chance is yours to make sentences from the vocabulary items.

1. Fresh challenge

2. Prospects

3. Pay rise

4. Take over

5. Retire

Reading Passage

Read the text carefully. Compare your answers with what the writer says.

Text 1

MIDLIFE CLASS CAREER

Making the Most of the Midlife Crisis



Feeling deeply bored and burnt out? If you are over 30, you may be showing the first signs of a midlife crisis. You could completely change your

career, as did Gauguin, the French painter who gave up his job as a stockbroker to travel the world and paint.

But there are many ways of 'doing Gauguin'. For some it means going back to university, for others it may be opening a beach bar in the Caribbean or finding a new partner. Those who have the money may take a year off to sail around the world and think about the meaning of life. Whatever the exit, it usually takes courage to find it.

Midlife crises can happen at 31, at 56 or several times during one's life. As well as having a huge personal impact, they can have a significant impact on organisations. At midlife, executives are normally at the peak of their careers and charged with making critical decisions.

Manfred Kets de Vries, professor of management and leadership at Insead business school, Fontainebleau, France, interviewed 200 senior executives from around the world (average age 46) and published a study of what they went through in midlife.

One interviewee, the chief executive of Swedish newspaper, explained his feelings: 'To my horror, I would begin to disappear emotionally in the middle of presentations...people would see it. They would become nervous... their attention would wander.... To this strange state of mind was also added my inability to listen to and function with other people.'

By: Astrid Wendlandt

Taken from: The Financial Times – Market Leader

A. Imagine that each paragraph above has a heading. Choose the best heading for each paragraph from the list below and number them in the correct order.

1. A business school professor interviewed 200 senior managers around the world about the midlife crisis. ()
2. An example of someone in a midlife ()
3. Different people have different ideas about what they would do if they had a midlife crisis. ()
4. Feeling bored may be the first sign of a middle crisis. ()
5. Midlife crises can happen at almost any age from early 30s onwards. ()

B. Choose the correct alternative. Then comment on the verb tenses in *italics*.

1. Feeling deeply bored and burnt out? If you are over 30, you may be showing the first signs of midlife crisis. (line 1) this means that it is.
 - a. Certainly a middle crisis.
 - b. Possibly a midlife crisis.
 - c. Certainly not a midlife crisis.
2. Those who have the money may take a year off to sail around the world. (line 6) this means that they.
 - a. Will possibly sail around the world.
 - b. Have permission to sail around the world.
 - c. Will certainly sail around the world.

3. Midlife crises can happen at 31, at 56 or several times during one's life. As well as having a huge personal impact, they can have a significant impact on organisations. (line 8 & 10) this means that midlife crisis.
 - a. Always happen in the way described
 - b. Sometimes happen in the way described
 - c. Never happen in the way described.
4. 'I would begin to disappear emotionally in the middle of presentations... people would see it. They would become nervous...their attention would rather...' (last paragraph) this means that people did these things.
 - a. Never
 - b. Once
 - c. Several times

C. Choose the alternative that means the same as the word(s) in italics. Skim the text to help you find the right answers.

Text 2

The Unspoken Rules of Career Success

By: Teri Fisher

I had been to business school, but nothing I had learnt there provided an answer to what I saw in my first working year: I discovered that the person being promoted above others in my organisation was not always the most knowledgeable or hardest working. New rules—'unspoken rules'—seemed to explain the differences between, say, an employee's performance review and the way his or her career actually developed. I realised that I needed to learn these rules fast or risk being left behind.

Here are five of the most important:

- ✓ Understand how you are seen
- ✓ Ask for and give honest and direct feedback.
- ✓ Play by the rules until you are in a position to change them
- ✓ Work with, not against the style of the people you deal with.
- ✓ Do not be a victim of your career—take charge and make your own choices.

Taken from: The Financial Times – Market Leader

Now, do the delayed text.

1. ... but nothing I had learnt there *provided* an answer to....(line 1)
 - a. Gave
 - b. Decided
 - c. Removed
2. ... the person being *promoted* above others... (line 2)
 - a. Given a job with the same importance as before
 - b. Given a job with less importance than before
 - c. Given a job with more importance than before
3. ... *unspoken rules*... (line 4)
 - a. Rules that employees did not know about
 - b. Rules that employees knew about but they never talked about

- c. Rules that employees knew about and talked about
- 4. ... the way his of her career *actually* developed (line 5)
 - a. In fact
 - b. Right now
 - c. Presently
- 5. I *realised* that I needed to learn these rules fast (line 5)
 - a. Succeeded
 - b. Achieved
 - c. Understood

D. Do you agree with the advice in the article? Why or why not? Is any of the advice useful for succeeding in your organisation? Can you think of other rules that are useful:

- 1. In your organisation
- 2. In organisation in general

Language Use

VERB PATTERNS

Basically, we know that in a sentence, the pattern is always *Subject + Verb + Object*.

Subject	Verb	Object
She	watched	the movie
The travel agent	confirmed	my reservation

However, there are also these kinds of sentences:

- a. with the inserted question word.

Subject	Verb	Object	Question Word
She	asked	us	<u>why</u> we wanted it.
I	told	them	<u>where</u> to find it

- b. which have more verbs (infinitive).

Subject	Verb	Object	Infinitive
He	asked	everyone	to leave
The doctor	advised	him	to take a rest

- c. which have a clause

Subject	Verb	Object	(that) clause
She	warned	me	that it was dangerous
They	told	him	that it was expensive

- d. which have preposition*

- ✓ He **insisted on** paying for the dinner.
- ✓ They **blamed** the driver **for** the accident.
- ✓ He **complained** to the manager **about** the bad service.
- ✓ The manager **apologized** to the customer **for** the bad service.

*NOTE: use the **Verb-ing** form after a preposition.

Correct the mistakes in these sentences. Most are the result of translating from the first language.

1. She said me the film was terrible.

2. He told it is not possible.

3. Can you explain me what to do?

4. She suggested us to go to an Italian restaurant.

5. Can we discuss about my report?

6. I want that he leaves.

7. I need to confirm me the booking.

8. I apologized my mistake.

9. She advised me buy an Arabic dictionary.

10. Luna insisted to pay.

Speak Up!

A. A friend of yours is having a midlife crisis. Which of these things would you recommend for him/her, and why?

1. Sail around the world
2. Coach (give advice to) young people in the organisation
3. Take a job in the same company, but in another country
4. Do voluntary work (low-paid or unpaid work with social objectives)
5. Stay at home for a year, read a lot of books and work on the garden

B. Now, work in pairs. Make a medium-length conversation about the above situation. After that, play your roles in front of the class.

USEFUL LANGUAGE

In giving suggestion to your friends, it will be better to use of the expressions below:

Making Suggestion

You should/shouldn't meet her again

I suggest that you meet an expert to consult your problem*

Why don't you meet an expert to find the way out?

You had better meet an expert to solve your serious problem, **or else**, you'll get a bigger one.**

Responding

Do you think so?

That's a good idea

I think I'll do that

Excellent idea

* People often falsely say "*I suggest you to meet...*"

**this expression is used to strongly emphasize the suggestion because it has the risk.

