

READING COMPREHENSION

Life choices: from office to farm

I didn't get into farming by the normal route, I have to say! Most of my farming friends have parents who are farmers, or they didn't do very well at school, so they went to farming college because they wanted to do something practical. There aren't many of my colleagues who got top grades in their exams like I did. But I've learnt that when it comes to farming, exam grades mean nothing. I'm an average farmer at best!

So after leaving school, I went to university of course, and the work was quite hard. A lot of the students felt the stress of the work, they were up until two in the morning doing their essays... I wasn't really as hard-working as most students. I attended my lectures and did enough work to pass my exams, but I didn't excel, like I had done at secondary school. But I graduated with a reasonable grade.

I thought that having a degree would guarantee me an interesting job, but that's not the case at all. I applied for lots of interesting jobs, but there were always so many candidates that I never had a chance. I got an office job pretty soon, because of course I had to earn money. I couldn't just refuse to work because none of the jobs were interesting enough... if only!

Oh, but the work was really dull. I don't know what's worse: a stressful job or a boring job. At least stressful jobs are interesting, but I did the same thing every day. It drove me crazy! I was actually quite pleased when the boss announced that the company was closing down because it had run out of money, and we were all out of work!

That's when I started working on the farm. It was summer you see, and I fancied a job working outdoors, where I could enjoy the sunshine instead of being inside an office all day. So I went to a farm and picked strawberries. In the autumn, I stayed on, doing jobs around the farm. Now, I'm employed here full-time.

I'm happy here, I have to say. I don't miss office work at all. I love working with my hands and seeing things grow, even though the work has no connection to my qualifications at all! So I'm not planning on leaving, far from it. I'm going to stay on and learn as much as I can about farming while I'm here. Eventually, I might hire my own land and machinery and see what I can produce on my own.

1 READING COMPREHENSION

Read the text and answer the questions. Tick the correct answer.

- How well did the speaker do at school?
 - ☐ A. He did poorly in exams.
 - ☐ B. He was an average student.
 - ☐ C. He was a high achiever.
- What happened when he was at university?
 - ☐ A. He did enough work to pass.
 - ☐ B. He worked harder than before.
 - ☐ C. He tried to succeed, but failed.
- What happened when he was looking for a job?
 - ☐ A. He got an interesting job easily.
 - ☐ B. He had to take an uninteresting job.
 - ☐ C. He only considered interesting jobs.

- He left his office job because...
 - ☐ A. it was too stressful.
 - ☐ B. the business closed down.
 - ☐ C. he found a better job.
- He chose to work on the farm because...
 - ☐ A. he saw an advertisement in his office.
 - ☐ B. he wanted to work outside.
 - ☐ C. it was the only full-time job he could find.
- What is he planning to do in the next few months?
 - ☐ A. Work at a different farm.
 - ☐ B. Get more qualifications.
 - ☐ C. Remain in this job.



2 VOCABULARY – FIND THE WORDS

Find the English words or expressions in the text corresponding to the French words.

- agriculture / travailler dans l'agriculture _____
- pratique _____
- collègue(s) _____
- de très bonnes notes _____
- assez / raisonnable _____
- un agriculteur moyen _____
- assister à des cours magistraux _____
- rédactions / dissertations _____
- une note correcte / raisonnable _____
- un diplôme universitaire _____
- garantir _____
- postuler à _____

- candidats _____
- gagner de l'argent _____
- entreprise _____
- stressant _____
- ennuyeux _____
- manquer d'argent _____
- travailler dehors _____
- rester / continuer _____
- à temps plein _____
- qualifications / diplômes _____

EXTRA – Find these words in the text: colleague degree graduate pass my exams qualifications

3 IRREGULAR VERBS – PAST SIMPLE

Find the irregular verbs in the text and complete the table.

Past simple	Infinitive	Français
got		
went		
did		
learnt		
felt		

Past simple	Infinitive	Français
was / were		
thought		
had		
ran out		
drove		

