

# One Day

## Before you read

1 Match the jobs with the photos.

- 1 TV presenter \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 waitress \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 novelist \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 comedian \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 teacher \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 pop star \_\_\_\_\_



## Reading

2 Read the summary of the plot of the book *One Day* by British novelist David Nicholls. Which jobs do Emma and Dexter do?

Emma and Dexter are both students at Edinburgh University. They are very fond of each other. They graduate but remain friends. Their lives take them in different directions, but they keep in contact. Each chapter of the novel describes their lives on 15 July every year, in each chapter for 20 years.



Emma becomes a waitress in London at a Tex-Mex restaurant; Dexter becomes a successful television presenter. However, Emma has got talent: first, she becomes a teacher, then a successful novelist. At first, Dexter's career also goes well: millions of people watch his TV show; but then he loses his job. Emma has a boyfriend, a stand-up comedian, Ian. Dexter gets married and has a daughter; but then he gets a divorce. After the divorce, Dexter goes to Paris to visit Emma, where she is writing her second book. When they meet in Paris, they begin to fall in love...

**Emma** Very nice.  
**Dexter** China, maybe. Then India. Travel for bit.  
**Emma** (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Dexter** What's wrong with travelling?  
**Emma** It's avoiding reality.  
**Dexter** Reality is over rated.  
**Emma** Anyway, you can afford it. You've got money. It's alright for you. It's like a holiday for two years. It's the same thing.  
**Dexter** Travel broadens the mind.  
**Emma** But what about the future? Not next month. I mean the future-future. What do you want to be when you're 40 or something?  
**Dexter** (2) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Emma** You're so shallow!  
**Dexter** Alright, then, famous.  
**Emma** It's so exciting, all those possibilities. Opportunities.  
**Dexter** Your name in tomorrow's newspaper.  
**Emma** I don't think so.  
**Dexter** (3) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Emma** I'm terrified.  
**Dexter** Me too. Forty years old. Forty!  
**Emma** So what about you at forty?  
**Dexter** (4) \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading

3 Now read the extract from the novel and fill in the gaps with the following sentences.

So are you excited?  
 I want to stay exactly as I am right now.  
 Travelling! You are so predictable!  
 Forty? I don't know. Can I say 'rich'?

**Emma** So, what's your great plan?  
**Dexter** London for a couple of days.  
 I've got friends there. Then France.



4 3 Listen and check your answers.

5 Read the extract again and write T (true) or F (false)?

- 1 Emma wants to travel. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Dexter has got friends in London. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Dexter is poor now. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Emma is excited about the future. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Dexter wants to be famous. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Dexter wants to see the world. \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY SKILLS**  
Using the context

You are often asked to fill in the gaps in a text. This tests your knowledge of grammar, vocabulary or both. Before you fill in the gaps, read the whole text to get the general meaning.

Use the context to help you understand the information. For example: who is talking in the text, Emma or Dexter? What are they talking about: the past, the present or the future?

When completing a text, look at the gaps carefully. Are they testing grammar or vocabulary? What kind of word is missing: a grammar word (auxiliary verb, pronoun, preposition) or a noun, verb, adjective or adverb?

Look at the words before and after the gap. Does the missing word refer to something already mentioned in the text?

Read the whole text through again. Does it make sense?

**Listening**

6 4 Do this now with the dialogue below. Then listen and check your answers.

**Emma** I can see you now at forty. You're in a sports car with the roof down in Kensington or Chelsea and the car (1) \_\_\_\_\_ amazing – it's silent. It is six inches off the ground. You're a bit fat and your (2) \_\_\_\_\_ is thinning. You're a big man in a small car, with a suntan. And there's a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ next to you. She's wearing sunglasses, very beautiful, a model, 23...

**Dexter** Any kids?

**Emma** No kids. You (4) \_\_\_\_\_ driving to your house in the country. In the boot, you've got (5) \_\_\_\_\_ racquets and expensive wine. You're pleased.

(6) \_\_\_\_\_ wife smiles at you with about 200 shiny white teeth...'

**Speaking**

7 **Work in pairs. Make plans for your partner's future, as in the model text in exercise 6. Make notes.**

'In 40 years time...'

- Where is your partner?
- What is your partner doing?
- What is your partner wearing?
- What does your partner look like?
- Who is he/she with?
- Is your partner married?
- Does he/she have a family?
- Is your partner rich and famous?
- How does your partner feel?
- What makes your partner happy?

8 **Use your notes to tell your partner about the future. Begin like this:**

'I can see you now at forty. You're...'

**Writing**

9 **Now answer the questions above about you. Make notes, then use them to write a text about you at forty. Begin:**

'I can see myself now at forty. I'm...'

