

# 12.3 Vocabulary and skills development

GOALS ■ Understand linkers for surprising information ■ Use phrases with *in*

## Reading & Speaking understanding linkers for surprising information

1 Have you ever had an interview for a job or study course? Tell a partner what you can remember about it.

- 1 When was it and what was it for?
- 2 How did you feel?
- 3 What did you wear?
- 4 Did it go well?

2a Read the information in the Unlock the code box about linkers for surprising information.

### UNLOCK THE CODE linkers for surprising information

Some linkers tell us about things that are not what we expect. These include *but, although, even though, despite, instead, however*.

*Although/Even though he was late for his interview, he got the job.*

*Despite being late for his interview, he got the job.*

*He was late for his interview. However, he got the job.*

*His parents wanted him to become an engineer. Instead, he became an actor.*

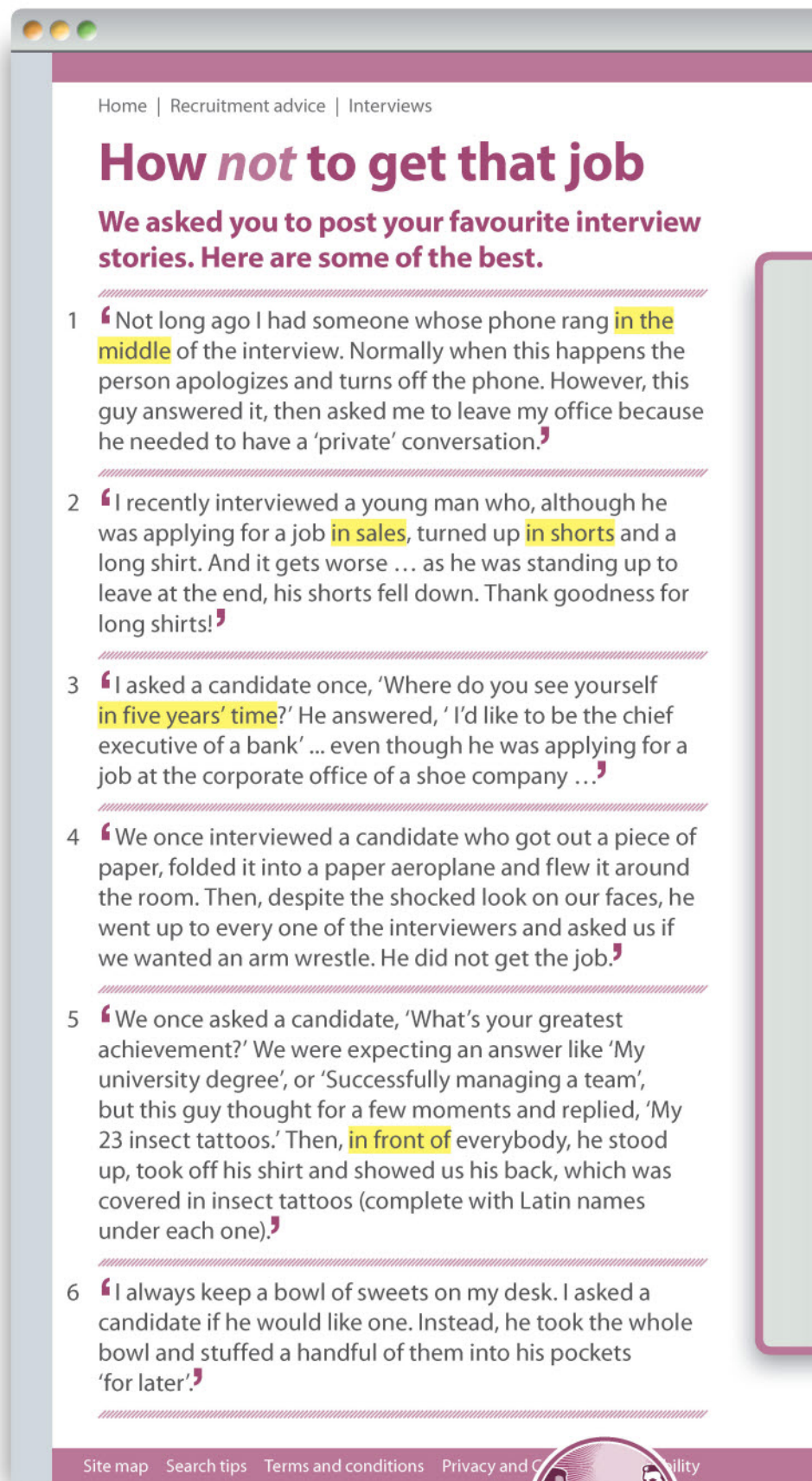
b Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

- 1 Although it was hot, *he wore shorts / he wore a heavy suit.*
- 2 *She didn't go to work, / She went to work,* despite the fact that she felt ill.
- 3 *He answered his phone / He put his phone on silent* even though he was having an interview.
- 4 I asked her to call me. Instead, *she emailed me / she phoned me.*
- 5 They offered me the job. However, *I didn't take it / I took it.*

c Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

- 1 I like my job. However, \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 He \_\_\_\_\_, even though he couldn't afford it.
- 3 She didn't reply to my question. Instead she \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 We \_\_\_\_\_, despite the bad weather.

3 Read the stories from a website for people who work in recruitment. Match four of the stories to the pictures.



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## How *not* to get that job

We asked you to post your favourite interview stories. Here are some of the best.

- 1 'Not long ago I had someone whose phone rang **in the middle** of the interview. Normally when this happens the person apologizes and turns off the phone. However, this guy answered it, then asked me to leave my office because he needed to have a 'private' conversation.'
- 2 'I recently interviewed a young man who, although he was applying for a job **in sales**, turned up **in shorts** and a long shirt. And it gets worse ... as he was standing up to leave at the end, his shorts fell down. Thank goodness for long shirts!'
- 3 'I asked a candidate once, 'Where do you see yourself **in five years' time**?' He answered, 'I'd like to be the chief executive of a bank' ... even though he was applying for a job at the corporate office of a shoe company ...'
- 4 'We once interviewed a candidate who got out a piece of paper, folded it into a paper aeroplane and flew it around the room. Then, despite the shocked look on our faces, he went up to every one of the interviewers and asked us if we wanted an arm wrestle. He did not get the job.'
- 5 'We once asked a candidate, 'What's your greatest achievement?' We were expecting an answer like 'My university degree', or 'Successfully managing a team', but this guy thought for a few moments and replied, 'My 23 insect tattoos.' Then, **in front of** everybody, he stood up, took off his shirt and showed us his back, which was covered in insect tattoos (complete with Latin names under each one).'
- 6 'I always keep a bowl of sweets on my desk. I asked a candidate if he would like one. Instead, he took the whole bowl and stuffed a handful of them into his pockets 'for later.'

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■ arm wrestle



- 4 Read the stories again. In each story, circle a linker from the box in exercise 2a and underline the surprising information which it introduces.
- 5 Which story 1–6 is about a candidate who ...?
- accepted more of something than he was offered
  - made an impolite request
  - removed an item of clothing during the interview
  - wasn't suitably dressed for an interview
  - seemed more interested in a different job
  - didn't behave seriously enough in his interview
- 6 Work in a group. Which story does each of you like best? Why?



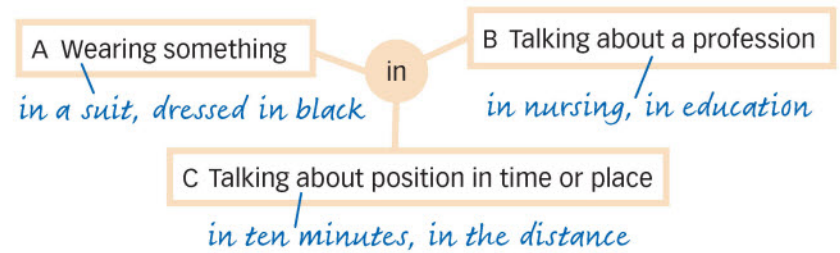
## Vocabulary phrases with *in*

7a Read the box about phrases with *in*.

### VOCABULARY FOCUS phrases with *in*

- The preposition *in* has several general meanings. For example, we use it to talk about professions (e.g. *in IT*), wearing things (e.g. *in jeans*) and for talking about time or place (*in a moment*).
- It is also used in fixed phrases, e.g. *in love*.

b Add the **highlighted** phrases from the stories to the correct place in the mind map.



8 Look at the fixed phrases in **bold** in sentences 1–6. Work out their meaning from the context and match them to the definitions a–f.

- He never tidies his desk. It's always **in a mess**.
  - There isn't time to explain the plan **in detail** now.
  - If I'm late again, I'll be **in trouble** with the boss.
  - My colleague and I have lots **in common**. We share the same birthday and live in the same street.
  - The assistant manager's **in charge of** the hotel while the manager's away.
  - It's easy to make mistakes if you do things **in a hurry**.
- a situation where somebody will be angry with you
  - including many small facts
  - having control over something
  - untidy
  - having the same interests and opinions
  - quickly

9a Complete the questions with a phrase which includes *in* and a word from the box.

charge mess front hurry common five years' time trouble

- Do you feel as if you're always \_\_\_\_\_?
- Do you hate it if your desk is \_\_\_\_\_?
- Have you ever had to speak \_\_\_\_\_ of a big audience?
- Are you \_\_\_\_\_ of the finances at home?
- Were you often \_\_\_\_\_ at school?
- Do you have a lot \_\_\_\_\_ with your closest friend?
- Would you like to live somewhere different \_\_\_\_\_?

b Work in a group and ask and answer the questions.