LANGUAGE

Lesson 7.1 Vocabulary

B2 Business Vantage / C1 Business Higher

1 Choose the correct option a, b, c or d.

Building in a city such as Los Angeles which is at 1      risk of natural disasters is a complex area of work. These places can 2      enormous damage and there are many potential 3      to consider. Although it would be good to 4      disasters, scientists and engineers know this is not possible. Instead they focus on 5      the risks. The most important aspect of building in these cities is to do a risk 6      to work out which factors 7       
a threat for this specific location. This type of forward 8      can help because experts can identify a possible problem. Nowadays computer programmes are used a lot to model natural disasters. This helps engineers 9      solutions and understand more about what 10      measures could be useful to make buildings safer.

1 a forward b preventative c mitigating d great

2 a manage b pose c suffer d assess

3 a solutions b risks c measures d resources

4 a pose b suffer c prevent d run

5 a minimising b running c testing d posing

6 a analysis b damage c threat d hazard

7 a minimise b pose c run d reduce

8 a measures b solutions c risks d thinking

9 a mitigate b suffer c reduce d test

10 a great b preventive c forward d test

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Lesson 7.2 Grammar

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the second, third or mixed conditional.

1 The financial world would be very different if technology                 (not improve) so quickly in recent years.

2 I would want to work with animals if I                 (have) to choose my career again.

3 If I had more money, I think I                  
(retire) and travel around the world.

4 If you had lost your job in the financial crisis, what                 (do)?

5 Gemma                 (not accept) the job if she’d known it was going to be so stressful.

6 Inaki would be happier if he                   
(study) history instead of engineering when he was at university.

7 If banks had invested more wisely ten years ago, the economy                 (grow) in a more sustainable way recently.

8 If I                 (take) more risks in my life when I was younger, maybe I would feel more fulfilled now.

9 My university course                 (be) better if I’d had the opportunity to do some work experience.

10 If they had the choice, they                  
(live) nearer their children so they could visit more often.

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Lesson 7.3 Functional language

3 Complete the text with one word in each gap.

Obviously, going into the merger also comes with a certain amount of risk. We can’t 1           all the possible problems, but we need to be ready to deal with issues as they 2           . Remember that good planning also looks at the worst 3           scenarios, too.

This may sound like scaremongering and I don’t want you to think that I think negatively about this merger. We just need to make sure we cover all 4           . Remember, it’s a big step and although we hope it will go well, we’re not overcautious doing damage 5           , in case there are any problems.

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Lesson 7.4 Functional language

4 Choose the correct option.

1 There is a(n)       need to find out more about the financial risks with this contract.

**a** medium **b** catastrophic **c** very **d** urgent

2 Let’s       the lack of staffing later. There are more important risks to focus on.

**a** address **b** analyse **c** establish **d** use

3 From our research, we have       several key areas of operational risk.

**a** looked **b** avoided **c** caused **d** identified

4 We should       the economic situation so that we can better understand the risks involved in this project.

**a** prepare **b** analyse **c** see **d** lead

5 It’s important to       into the risks that the report highlighted before we do anything else.

**a** research **b** understand **c** look **d** prioritise

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Lesson 7.5 Functional language

5 Complete the report with one word in each gap.

Accident report

Person(s) involved: Andre Bizik

Date and time: 04.09 at 3.25 p.m.

1           **:** Staff restaurant

Events 2           to accident: Andre dropped a pot of hot coffee.

Injuries and 3           : He burned his left hand. The first aider checked the burn and applied some cream.

4           : The table for the coffee pots is too small.

5           : The table should be replaced with a larger one to give staff more space to work.

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SKILLS

Short listening

B2 Business Vantage / C1 Business Higher

6 [BP\_B2+\_Test\_07\_01.mp3] You will hear two telephone conversations. For each question, write one or two words or a number. You will hear each recording twice.

Listening 1

Look at the notes below. You will hear a manager talking to an employee about an accident.

|  |
| --- |
| Accident report notes – Jim Sargent  Accident details = Leo and Jim moving 1           into meeting room  Table 2           fell on Jim’s foot.  Make sure all tables checked by building  3           dept.  Raise this topic in the staff meeting about  4           . |

Listening 2

Look at the notes below. You will hear two colleagues talking about a new product range.

|  |
| --- |
| Peter and Jose’s discussion  Peter  – thinks the product is aimed at the wrong  5  – says competitors’ 6           are very popular with teenagers  Jose  – thinks the level of 7           is not very high  – says the aim is to gain the loyalty of 8           customers to the range |

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Reading

B2 Business Vantage / C1 Business Higher

7 Read the article and choose the correct answer.

A risky but rewarding road

At some point in our lives everyone dreams of starting their own business, even if we know it will never become a reality. We might think we’re the next Steve Jobs or be convinced that we’ve thought of a great product that the world will want. Either way, for most people these daydreams tend to happen after a tiring time at the office, or while sitting on a crowded commuter train wondering about the meaning of life. Likewise, for most of us these dreams are passing thoughts which are never acted upon. But, some of us are a bit different. For a few people, the idea sticks and they decide to go it alone. Starting a business involves a lot of organisation and paperwork, but it’s keeping it going in the future that is the really hard part.

If you decide to start a business, you’re going to face many risks, so it is worth exploring some of them beforehand. Remember that many businesses do not survive in the long term. This suggests that being your own boss may not be as liberating as it sounds. Some of the risks are clearly outside anyone’s control. Your product may suddenly face new competition that you couldn’t have predicted. Or perhaps a change in the economy means people can no longer afford what you are selling. It is obvious that no one can plan for these things and sometimes small businesses fail due to bad luck alone.

Yet many risks are associated with the person or people who start the business. Working for yourself can be liberating in one sense, but it is also likely to be much more of an emotional journey than working for someone else. This journey can often have far more ups and downs than a regular job as well and this can affect the performance and success of the business. For example, at the beginning few people understand the implications of not being able to rely on a regular salary. This uncertainty can be stressful to live with on a daily basis especially as the company is developing. In addition, many people finance their businesses themselves and can risk losing their life savings if things go wrong.

Money is something that new businesses require, but equally as important is time. There is no end to the amount of time you can spend on your new business. This situation has been made worse by the need to constantly find ways to market your new business and find customers, which takes up far more time than the boring administration tasks such as filing and accounting. In fact, it seems strange that so many people do decide to start their own business given the amount of work and potential risks involved. However, for those that succeed, the rewards are numerous; there is much pride in having created something from nothing, and being master of your own destiny is extremely fulfilling, which can sustain people through all the difficult times.

1 People usually daydream about starting a business

a when they reach a certain age.

b because they want to change their life.

c at the end of a long day at work.

d because they think they will become famous.

2 What is difficult about running your own business?

a maintaining it over time

b doing all the administration

c making lots of decisions

d being well-organised

3 What suggests that running a business might be harder than it appears?

a People don’t understand the risks.

b Businesses are difficult to control.

c Many people don’t do any research.

d Most businesses fail in a short time.

4 Sometimes businesses don’t succeed because

a their products are too expensive.

b of unexpected world events.

c they did not plan well.

d of a lack of resources.

**5** How is working for yourself different from working for a company?

**a** It gives you a better work–life balance.

**b** It produces a wide range of feelings.

**c** It helps you become more efficient.

**d** It makes you more positive.

**6** What aspect of running a business is sometimes stressful?

**a** having an irregular salary

**b** developing the business

**c** losing your life savings

**d** doing the administration

**7** Why are new businesses so time-consuming?

**a** There is so much paperwork to do.

**b** People have to work very long hours.

**c** Owners must try to find work all the time.

**d** Company accounts are difficult.

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Writing

B2 Business Vantage

8 You are the manager of a fitness centre called Ready Gyms. You manage a team of six instructors. Last week one of your team, Helen Potter, had an accident at work. Read the notes about the accident and write an accident report.

Accident notes

Helen Potter slipped down the stairs. She hit her head and cut her leg. She was carrying yoga mats. The first aider checked her injuries. Helen went to hospital for a further check.

This should not happen – need equipment in ALL rooms so staff don’t carry equipment around the building.

**Write 180–200 words.**

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