



EVROPSKÁ UNIE



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,  
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



OP Vzdělávání  
pro konkurenceschopnost

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

# Lesson 58:

# The Best Accountant

Conversation Lesson with a Story,  
Vocabulary Practice,  
Questions and Activities

# Content

- The Story
  - Vocabulary Practice
  - Questions for Discussion
  - Activities
  - A Related Proverb
- Role Play
  - Ideas to Help You
  - Useful vocabulary/phrases

# The Story

An accountant answered an advertisement for a job with a large firm. At the end of the interview the chairman said, *'One last question – what is three times seven?'* The accountant thought for a minute and replied, *'Twenty-two.'*

Outside he took his calculator and realized that he should have said twenty-one. He concluded that he had lost the job. A fortnight later, however, he was offered the post.

After a few weeks, he asked the chairman why he had been appointed when he had given the wrong answer.

*'You were the closest,'* the chairman replied.

Source: [The Internet TESL Journal](#)



# Vocabulary Practice

**Choose the best answer.**

- 1) An **'accountant'** is a ...
- a) person who wants a job
  - b) machine which adds, deletes, etc.
  - c) person who keeps money records
  - d) company manager

Content

Story

# Vocabulary Practice

**Choose the best answer.**

2) **'Firm'** here means ...

- a) strong person
- b) bussiness company
- c) shop manager
- d) important decision

Content

Story

# Vocabulary Practice

**Choose the best answer.**

3) A '**chairman**' is a person who ...

- a) sells or buys chairs
- b) controls a meeting
- c) answers phone calls
- d) says the latest news

Content

Story

# Vocabulary Practice

**Choose the best answer.**

4) To '**conclude**' here means to ...

- a) reckon
- b) decide something is true (after looking at all the evidence that you have)
- c) change from one system to another
- d) end

Content

Story

# Vocabulary Practice

**Choose the best answer.**

5) A **'fortnight'** is ...

- a) one month
- b) one year
- c) twenty days
- d) two weeks

Content

Story



# Vocabulary Practice

**Choose the best answer.**

6) **'Appoint'** here means to ...

- a) interview someone
- b) choose a person for a job
- c) call a person to come
- d) let a person visit a place

Content

Story

# Questions for Discussion

- 1) What did the chairman mean by the last sentence?
- 2) How true can such a story be?
- 3) Why do you think should not an accountant make such a mistake?
- 4) What qualities should a good accountant have?

Content

Story

# Activities

- Now tell your friend(s) the story in your own words.
- Pronounce the following words several times:
  - a) accountant
  - b) advertisement
  - c) interview
  - d) chairman
  - e) calculator
  - f) fortnight
  - g) appoint
  - h) close

Content

Story

# A Related Proverb

**‘A narrow mind has a broad tongue.’**

- What does the proverb ‘say’?
- Is there a proverb in your mother tongue which bears the same meaning?

Content

Story

# Role Play

Imagine the following situation:

You are **in England** attending an English language course and you meet a new friend. The course is about to end, but **you and your friend** would like to stay in England and travel. However, you don't have enough money and you **need to find a job**. You should **discuss which job to take** and **agree on the most suitable one**. Person B will play the role of **your friend** and **will start the conversation**.



## Role Play:

# Ideas to Help You

The following ideas may help you:

- *Job*
- *Money*
- *Working conditions*
- *Working hours*
- *Skills needed for the job*
- *Other*

Jobs to choose from:

*picking strawberries, waiter/waitress, shop assistant, other*