

A business interview

Listen to the business interview to practise and improve your listening skills.

Before listening

Do the preparation task first. Then listen to the audio and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–f) with the vocabulary (1–6).

Vocabulary

1. a remote area
2. pre-approved
3. the founder
4. a predicament
5. numerous
6. obvious

Definition

- a. someone who starts a business
- b. many
- c. already officially recognised and accepted
- d. far away from towns or other populated places
- e. a difficult or challenging situation
- f. easy to understand or notice

Tasks

Task 1

Choose the correct answer.

1. Anna ...
 - a. didn't start the company but manages it now.
 - b. started the company and manages it now.
 - c. started the company but doesn't manage it any more.
2. The app ...
 - a. is for parents to learn from.
 - b. is for students to learn from.
 - c. is for students who want to find a tutor.
3. Many parents ...
 - a. don't have the time or knowledge to help with their children's homework.
 - b. think that schools should help with their children's homework.
 - c. don't want to help with their children's homework.

4. The app ...
 - a. has student exercises on it.
 - b. is only for people in remote areas.
 - c. offers live online support from tutors.

5. On the app, tutors who live in remote areas ...
 - a. often charge lower rates.
 - b. often charge higher rates.
 - c. don't like to work too much.

6. The app ...
 - a. is new and not many people know about it.
 - b. is already popular.
 - c. is not very successful.

Task 2

Match the verbs (1–6) and nouns (a–f) from the interview.

Verbs

1. to solve
2. to come up with
3. to meet
4. to speak for
5. to secure
6. to expand

Nouns

- a. funding
- b. a need
- c. a problem
- d. itself
- e. the range of services
- f. an idea

Discussion

What's your favourite app for learning and why?

Transcript

Presenter: Welcome to today's show. We're very happy to have Anna Oliveira as our guest today. Anna is the creator and founder of HomeworX – spelled with an 'x' we should note – an app which helps teenagers with their homework. Thanks for coming in, Anna.

Anna: Thanks for having me.

Presenter: So, tell us about your app. How does it work?

Anna: Well, teenagers and their parents have numerous challenges when it comes to homework these days. In many families both parents work and don't have much available time to help their kids with their homework. And even if they do have time to help, they may not be able to offer support with the content. What I mean is, they may not know, or at least remember, enough in any given subject to support.

Presenter: You mean they might not be able to remember complex maths or might have never studied certain subjects, such as biology or economics, themselves?

Anna: Exactly. So they might want to support their children with their homework, but have neither the time nor the knowledge to do so.

Presenter: I see. So the app helps solve this problem?

Anna: Yes, and more. The next issue is that tutors can be expensive, and there may be long waiting lists for specialist tutors in the town or region you live in. Our HomeworX app brings students and tutors together online. Students can search a database of pre-approved tutors and sign up for live online support. They don't need to be in the same town or city.

Presenter: That sounds really great.

Anna: It is. And this approach also enables us to offer the tutoring services at lower prices because there's no travelling time involved for the tutor to get to the student's home. And tutors who live in remote areas are happy to get access to more students, and be able to work from home, even at lower rates.

Presenter: This all sounds great. So, how did you come up with the idea?

Anna: Well, as you might guess, I was one of those parents I described earlier. I really wanted to help my son with his homework, but I was either too busy with work or I didn't actually know anything about the subjects he was having difficulty with. Also, we live in an area where there aren't many tutors and the ones that are there are either very expensive or have long waiting lists.

Presenter: Yes. I can understand your predicament. Well, it sounds like a very useful app that is clearly meeting a need. And its popularity obviously speaks for itself.

Anna: Thank you.

Presenter: So, do you have plans for the future?

Anna: We've just secured some funding and hope to expand the range of services we offer using the app.

Presenter: We wish you the best of luck. Thanks again for coming in. That was Anna Oliveira, founder of the tutoring app HomeworX (with an 'x', don't forget!), which is available for both Apple and Android devices. Join us again next week for another business interview. Have a great week, everyone.

Answers

Preparation task

1. d
2. c
3. a
4. e
5. b
6. f

Task 1

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. c
5. a
6. b

Task 2

1. c
2. f
3. b
4. d
5. a
6. e