



"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success."

Henry Ford (1863 – 1947), founder of the Ford Motor Company

1. Teamwork Discussion

1. Do you prefer to work in a team or on your own?
2. What are the necessary skills and personal qualities someone needs to be a good team player? Which of these do you have? Which of these do you need to develop further?
3. What are the advantages of working in a team? What are the disadvantages of working in a team? What can teams achieve that a person working on their own cannot?
4. When have you not been a team player? Why was that?
5. Do you sometimes think that your responsibilities to the team can interfere with your personal responsibilities?
6. Does a team always need a leader? Why or why not?
7. What are the best ways a company can encourage teamwork?
8. How does your company encourage teamwork?

2. Teamwork Vocabulary

- **to gel (BrE) / jell (AmE) with someone** (verb), **to get on / along with someone** (verb) – *to work well or have a good relationship with someone.*
- **to pull one's weight** (verb) – *to do your fair share of the work.*
- **to pitch in** (verb) – *to contribute to the work of the team.*
- **to take one for the team** (verb) – *to make a personal sacrifice for the benefit of the team or group.*
- **to be on the same page** (verb) – *to have the same understanding as another person/people.*
- **morale** (noun) – *positive emotions, such as happiness, confidence and enthusiasm, felt at a particular time.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun)

1. Paula had to finish all your work last month; you really need to start _____.
2. As nobody wanted to speak to the difficult client, Hugo decided to _____ and volunteered to deal with the customer.
3. Everyone on the team _____, ensuring the work was finished before the deadline.
4. With _____ at an all-time low, it's no wonder the team's performance has dropped dramatically.
5. Rachel really doesn't _____ Keith; their personalities clash and they argue all the time.
6. The team is not _____. Helen was expecting the report to be finished today, but George thought the deadline was next week.

Teamwork vocabulary comprehension questions

1. Who do you get on with the most at work?
2. Have you worked in a team where someone wasn't pulling their weight?
3. Have you worked in a team where everyone pitched in?
4. When have you taken one for the team?
5. Has there been a time at work when people were not on the same page?
6. What causes teams to lose morale? Have you ever experienced this? What is the best way to boost morale in a team?

3. Video: Teambuilding

You are going to watch a TED Talk by Tom Wujec called "Build a tower, build a team."

Watch the video here: <https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/business-english-conversation-lesson-plan-teamwork/>

Watch the video and after, discuss the following questions:

1. Why are some people better team players than others?
2. How can collaboration be improved in a team?
3. What are the best ways to improve a team's performance?
4. Have you ever been involved in a team that had its own 'marshmallow' moment? What happened?
5. Have you ever been part of a team building exercise? What did you do? Do you think it helped? Why or why not?
6. In general, do you believe that team building activities are useful for increasing teamwork and cooperation in a group? Or do you think they are a waste of time? Why?

4. Teamwork Conversation Questions

1. Think about a really good team you were a member of. Why was it a successful team? What did the people do to make it a success? What didn't they do?
2. Now think about a really bad team you were a member of. Why was it unsuccessful? What did the people do to make it a failure? What didn't they do?
3. How important is teamwork for helping you do your job?
4. Who are the people you depend on at work to do your job? Which people depend on you?
5. How important is socialising for teamwork?
6. Is having fun at work important for teambuilding, or does this negatively affect the team's performance?
7. When you have your evaluation at work, are you evaluated for your teamworking skills or just your individual performance? How is teamworking assessed?
8. In which jobs is it vital that people work as part of a team? Can you think of any jobs that don't require a high level of teamwork?

5. Teamwork Writing Task

Send an email to your team inviting them to a teambuilding day. Explain the purpose of the activity, the venue details, and a brief outline of the day.