

The Podcast – Nils

Listen to an interview with Nils, a Swedish professional working in the UK.

- 1** Which of the following best describes Nils' job?
- a) He does research for a government agency.
 - b) He works in customer support.
 - c) He's a computer programmer for a software company.

Listen again and answer the following questions.

- 2** What did Nils do before his current job? How did he get his current job?
- 3** Nils says there are two differences between working in Sweden and working in the UK. What are they?
- 4** Complete the table with things Nils says in the interview about his job. Add one more thing to each column.

Things Nils enjoys	Skills needed
He meets many different customers	Making a good impression

- 5** What advice does Nils give to anyone who wants to get a job like his?
- a) Just apply for similar things.
 - b) Simply walk through the door.
 - c) Come to England on a Sunday.
- 6** Nils says it's important to 'get your foot in the door'. What does he mean? Work with a partner and try to think of 3 different ways of getting your foot in the door.

Visit the website below to see if any of your ideas are listed:

http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0HUV/is_1_32/ai_107894462



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Teacher's Notes

- 1 b) He works in customer support.
- 2 Before his current job, Nils did a Master's thesis at the Defence Research Agency in Sweden, and was a student before that. He found his current job because one of his friends worked for the same company, but in Sweden. His friend told him they were hiring in Oxford.
- 3 The salaries are higher in the UK, and the tax rate is lower than in Sweden.

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Things Nils enjoys	Skills needed
He meets many different customers	Making a good impression
There are different projects every week	Being analytical / solving problems

- 5 a) Just apply for similar things.
- 6 He means it's important to get started in some way, to create an opportunity for yourself within a company or industry. Suggested ways of doing this: applying for a job that isn't perfect, but is for a company you like; using friend or family connections to recommend you; volunteer to do work experience without pay, so that you become known by a particular company; send an application for a job even if there is no job advertised, so that the company has your name on file; attend trade fairs or job fairs and talk to people there in an effort to make new contacts.

Note on the transcript:

A few words in the transcript of the podcast are marked by wavy underlining. These are either grammatical errors or else a misuse of a word or phrase. With stronger students, you may consider eliciting a corrected transcript.

Suggested corrections:

May not be <u>articulate</u> to you	<i>evident; obvious; transparent</i>
a foot <u>through</u> the door	<i>in</i>

