



# Provlektion

## *Blueprint B Version 2.0*

# Genomförande

## Ämnet

Provektionen handlar om att skaffa sig ett jobb, hur man agerar på en jobbintervju och vad som krävs för att få drömjobbet.

## Ice breaker - delving into the topic

Dela in eleverna i grupper om 3–4 personer. De ska enas om ett yrke och en arbetsplats där de är personalansvariga. Deras uppgift är att rekrytera en ny person till arbetsplatsen. De ska diskutera vilka två egenskaper och två meriter som är de viktigaste som de sökande bör ha för att söka arbetet. De ska också argumentera för varför just dessa kvaliteter är viktiga för just detta jobb.

## Texten

1. Låt eleverna läsa texten Little Miss Fix-It av Marian Keyes och svara på innehållsfrågorna "Read and React".
2. Diskutera elevernas svar till frågorna. Fråga 5 är lämplig att bygga vidare på: Skriv elevernas meningar på tavlan och fråga hur de tolkar meningarna.
3. "Reflect and share": Eleverna jobbar två och två och diskuterar alla frågor. De ska sedan välja en av frågorna som de presenterar till resten av gruppen.

## Grammatik: Adjectives and adverbs

Repetera adjektiv/adverb.

Adjektiv beskriver substantiv eller pronomen:

*Old nuns are **careful** drivers.*

Adverb beskriver verb, adjektiv eller andra adverb:

*Old nuns **drive carefully**.* (verb)

*They are **incredibly careful** drivers.* (adjektiv)

*They drive **amazingly carefully**.* (adverb)

Gå igenom orden i "Adjectives and adverbs" och låt eleverna jobba med uppgiften antingen enskild eller i par.

## Tips på film

Förslag på musik, film, böcker, hemsidor m.m. finns i lärarhandledningen.

*The Devil Wears Prada* (2006) Boken som filmen bygger på låg sex veckor på The New York Times bestseller-lista. Andrea vill bli journalist men istället blir hon chefens närmaste assistent på en modetidning. Hennes arbete innebär så stora moraliska uppoffringar att hon till slut säger upp sig och inser vad som är viktigt i livet.

*Two Weeks Notice* (2002) Lucy Kelson är en framgångsrik advokat med humanistiska ideal som chefar över George Wade, en självupptagen mäklare som nedvärderar Kelson genom att behandla henne som ett hembiträde. När hon till slut bestämmer sig för att säga upp sig, inser båda att de är förälskade i varandra. Precis som Ashling i *Little Miss Fix-It* får även Lucy Kelson jobbet hos George Wade genom en rätt ovanlig anställningsintervju. Det går bra att visa bara de första 5 minuter (circa) av filmen och jämföra med texten.



## Little Miss Fix-It

From *Sushi for Beginners* by Marian Keyes

**Ashling is applying for the job of assistant editor of *Colleen*, a new women's magazine that is about to be launched in Dublin, Ireland. Well prepared, lucky pebble in pocket, and equipped with good advice ("don't look too drab"), she enters the office of the magazine to embark on the crucial and all-important interview.**

**indentation** inward bend  
**plump for** to choose one from a selection  
**muted** soft and gentle, not very strong  
**flighty** not serious or reliable  
**pebble** small stone  
**juvenile** silly or immature  
**mortgage** loan of money in order to buy a house

Ashling eventually decided on jacket number one. She could have sworn she detected a slight indentation<sup>o</sup> roughly half-way between her breasts and her hips and that was good enough for her.

5 After agonizing over her make-up, she plumped for<sup>o</sup> muted<sup>o</sup> in case she came across as flighty<sup>o</sup>. But in case she looked *too* drab she brought her beloved black-and-white pony-skin handbag. Then she rubbed her lucky Buddha, popped her lucky pebble<sup>o</sup> in her pocket and looked regretfully at her lucky red hat. But just  
10 *how* lucky would a red bobble hat be, if worn to a job interview? Anyway, she didn't need it – her horoscope had said that this would be a good day. So had the angel oracle.

As she let herself on to the street she had to step over a man who was sound asleep in the front doorway. Then she pointed her-  
15 self in the direction of Randolph Media's Dublin office and, walking briskly past the Dublin city-centre gridlock traffic, repeated over and over in her head, as advised by Louise L. Hay, *I will get this job, I will get this job, I will get this job ...*

But what if I don't? Ashling couldn't help but wonder.

20 *Well, then I won't mind, well, then I won't mind, well, then I won't mind ...*

Though she'd put a brave face on it, Ashling was devastated by the turn of events with Mrs O'Sullivan's couch. So devastated that it had triggered one of the ear infections that always showed up  
25 when she was under stress.

Losing one's job was embarrassingly juvenile<sup>o</sup>, not the kind of thing that happened to a thirty-one-year-old mortgage<sup>o</sup> holder.

Surely she should be past all that?

To stop her life unravelling, she'd been job-hunting with a passion and putting herself forward for everything remotely feasible.<sup>o</sup> No, she couldn't lasso a runaway stallion, she'd admitted in her  
5 interview for the wild-west ranch in Mullingar – she'd actually thought the position they were interviewing for was an administrative one – but she'd be *willing to learn*.

At each interview she went for she repeated over and over that she was *willing to learn*. But of everything she'd applied for, the  
10 job at *Colleen* was the one she really, *badly* wanted. She loved working on a magazine and magazine jobs were rare in Ireland. Besides, Ashling wasn't a proper journalist: she was simply a good organizer, with an eye for detail.

15 The magazine arm of Randolph Media was on the third floor of an office block on the quays. Ashling had found out that Randolph Media also owned the small but growing television station, Channel 9, and a highly commercial radio station, but these apparently operated out of different premises.

20 Ashling came out of the lift and scooted down the corridor towards reception. The place seemed to hum with activity, people rushing up and down carrying bits of paper. Ashling thrilled with excitement that peaked into nausea<sup>o</sup>. Just before the reception desk, a tall, messy-haired man was deep in conversation with a  
25 tiny Asian girl. They were speaking to each other in low tones and something in the nature of their exchange gave Ashling to understand that they wished they could shout. Ashling hurried on; she didn't like rows. Not even other people's.

She realized how badly she'd misjudged the make-up situation  
30 when she got a gander<sup>o</sup> at the receptionist. Trix – that's what her name badge said she was called – had the glittery, luscious-sticky look of a devotee of the more-is-more school of slapplication. Her eyebrows were plucked almost into non-existence, her lipliner was so thick and dark she looked as if she had a moustache, and her  
35 entire head of blonde hair was caught up in dozens of tiny, evenly spaced, sparkly butterfly clips. She must've had to get up three hours early to do it, Ashling thought, highly impressed.

'Hello,' Trix growled in a voice that sounded as though she

**feasible** can be done or achieved  
**nausea** feeling of sickness  
**gander** a look





**tetanus** an acute infectious disease  
**gobshites** a person regarded as mean or contemptible

smoked forty cigarettes a day – which coincidentally she did.

‘I’ve an interview at nine thi –’ Ashling halted at the sound of a loud yelp behind her. She looked over her shoulder and saw the messy-haired man nursing his first finger.

5 ‘You bit me!’ he exclaimed. ‘Mai, you’ve drawn blood!’

‘Hope your tetanus° is up to date,’ the Asian girl laughed scornfully.

Trix clicked her tongue, flung her eyes heavenwards and muttered, ‘Pair of gobshites°, they never stop. Take a seat,’ she told  
10 Ashling. ‘I’ll tell Calvin you’re here.’

She disappeared through the double doors and Ashling wob-

bled down on to a couch, beside a coffee table which was strewn with all the current titles. The sight of them sent her nerves into sudden overdrive – she so badly wanted this job. Her heart was pounding and her stomach sloshed bile°. Absently she rolled the  
5 lucky pebble through her thumb and finger. Through a gauze° of trembling anxiety she was semi-aware of the bitten man slamming into the gents’ and the little Asian girl stomping to the lift, her curtain of long black hair swishing to and fro.

‘Mr Carter says go on in.’ Trix was back and doing a bad job  
10 of hiding her surprise. For the past two days she’d been plagued by nervous interviewees who’d been kept waiting by her desk for up to half an hour at a time. During which Trix had had to hold off ringing her friends and fellas and deal with the interviewees’ pleading questions about what their chances of getting the job  
15 were. And to add insult to injury, she knew for a *fact* that all Calvin Carter and Jack Devine were doing in the interview room was playing rummy.

But Calvin Carter had been deserted by Jack Devine, and he was bored and lonely. Might as well be interviewing someone as  
20 doing nothing.

‘Come!’ he commanded, when Ashling knocked timidly° on the door.

He took one glance at the dark-haired woman in the black trouser-suit and immediately decided against her. She just wasn’t  
25 glamorous enough for *Colleen*. He didn’t know much about girls’ hair, but he had a feeling that it was usually more elaborate° than this one’s. Wasn’t it normal to have a kind of *interfered* look to it? Surely it shouldn’t just hang there on her shoulders, being brown? And fresh-faced is all very well when you’re a milkmaid, but not  
30 when you’re an aspiring assistant editor of a sexy women’s magazine ...

‘Sit down.’ He supposed he’d better go through the motions for five minutes.

Breathless with the desire to do well, Ashling sat on the lone  
35 chair in the middle of the floor and faced the man who sat behind the long table.

‘Jack Devine, the MD for Ireland, will be here shortly,’ Calvin explained. ‘I don’t know what’s keeping him. First up,’ he turned

**bile** liquid produced by your liver which helps you to digest fat  
**gauze** light, soft cloth with holes in it  
**timid** shy, no self-confidence  
**elaborate** made with a lot of artistic details



**résumé** written  
description of your  
education and previous  
jobs

his attention to her *résumé*°, ‘you better tell me how to pronounce that name of yours.’

‘Ash-ling. Ash as in cigarette ash, ling to rhyme with sing.’

‘Ash-ling. Ashling. OK, I can say that. Alrighty, *Ashling*, for the  
5 past eight years you’ve been working in magazines ...’

‘*Magazine*, actually.’ Ashling heard someone giggle nervously and realized helplessly that it was herself. ‘Just the one.’

‘And why are you leaving *Woman’s Place*?’

‘I’m looking for a new challenge,’ Ashling offered nervously.  
10 Sally Healy had told her to say that.

The door opened and in came the bitten man.

‘Ah, Jack.’ Calvin Carter frowned. ‘This is *Ashling* Kennedy. Ash as in cigarette ash, ling to rhyme with sing.’

‘How’s it going?’ Jack had other things on his mind. He was  
15 in a foul mood. He’d been up half the night in negotiations with technicians at the TV station, while conducting almost simultaneous negotiations with a US network to persuade them not to sell their award-winning series to RTE but to Channel 9 instead. And as if his workload hadn’t already reached critical mass, he’d been  
20 charged with setting up this stupid new magazine. The last thing the world needs is another women’s magazine! But, if he was honest, the true source of his grief was Mai. She drove him insane. He *hated* her. He hated her so much. How had he ever thought he was mad about her! No way was he taking her calls. Never again, that  
25 was the last time, the very, very last time ...

He swung himself behind the table, trying hard to concentrate on the interview – old Calvin got his boxers in such a bunch about them. In a moment or two he knew he’d be expected to ask something that sounded vaguely relevant, but all he could think about  
30 was that he might be bleeding to death. Or dying of rabies. How soon did the foaming at the mouth begin? he wondered.

Leaning back on the two hind legs of his chair, he held his wounded finger out in front of him, staring at it. He couldn’t believe she’d bitten him. *Again*. She’d promised the last time ...  
35 He pulled the twist of toilet paper tighter and bright red blood rushed through it.

‘Tell me your strengths and weaknesses,’ Calvin invited Ashling.

‘I’d have to be honest and say that my weakest area is editorial work. While I can produce tag-lines, headings and short pieces, I haven’t much experience of writing long articles.’

None, actually, if she was completely up-front.

5 ‘My strengths are that I am meticulous<sup>o</sup>, organized and hard-working. I’m a good second-in-command,’ Ashling said earnestly, quoting directly from Sally Healy. Then she stopped and said, ‘Excuse me, would you like a Band-Aid for your finger?’

Jack Devine looked up, startled. ‘Who, me?’

10 ‘I don’t see anyone else bleeding all over the place.’ Ashling attempted a smile.

Jack Devine shook his head violently. ‘Nah, no ... Thanks,’ he added, surlily.

‘Why not?’ Calvin Carter intervened.

15 ‘I’m fine.’ Jack gestured with his good hand.

‘Take the Band-Aid,’ Calvin said. ‘Sounds like a good idea.’

Ashling lifted her bag on to her lap and, with the minimum of rummaging, produced a box of plasters. Lifting the lid, she flicked through them, lifted one out and handed it to Jack. ‘Try that for  
20 size.’

Jack looked at it as if he had no idea what to do. Calvin Carter was no help either.

Ashling swallowed a sigh, got up from her chair, took the plaster from Jack’s hand and ripped off the grease-proof paper. ‘Hold  
25 out your finger.’

‘Yes, Ma’am,’ he said sarcastically.

With speed and efficiency she wrapped it around the bleeding digit. To her surprise, on the pretext<sup>o</sup> of making sure the plaster was secure, she gave his finger a little squeeze and felt shameful  
30 satisfaction at the wince<sup>o</sup> that fluttered across his face.

‘What else have you got?’ Calvin Carter asked curiously. ‘Aspirins?’

She nodded cautiously. ‘Would you like one?’

‘No, thanks. A pen and notepad?’

35 She nodded again.

‘How about – and this is a long shot, I’ll admit – a portable sewing kit?’

Ashling paused sheepishly, then her entire demeanour<sup>o</sup> lifted

**meticulous** very careful with details

**pretext** reason which you pretend has caused you to do something

**wince** the muscles of your face suddenly tighten because you are in pain

**demeanour** the way you behave



**moody** depressed, sour

and lightened in a half-laugh of admission. ‘Actually, I do.’ Her smile was wide.

‘You’re very organized,’ Jack Devine interrupted. He made it sound like an insult.

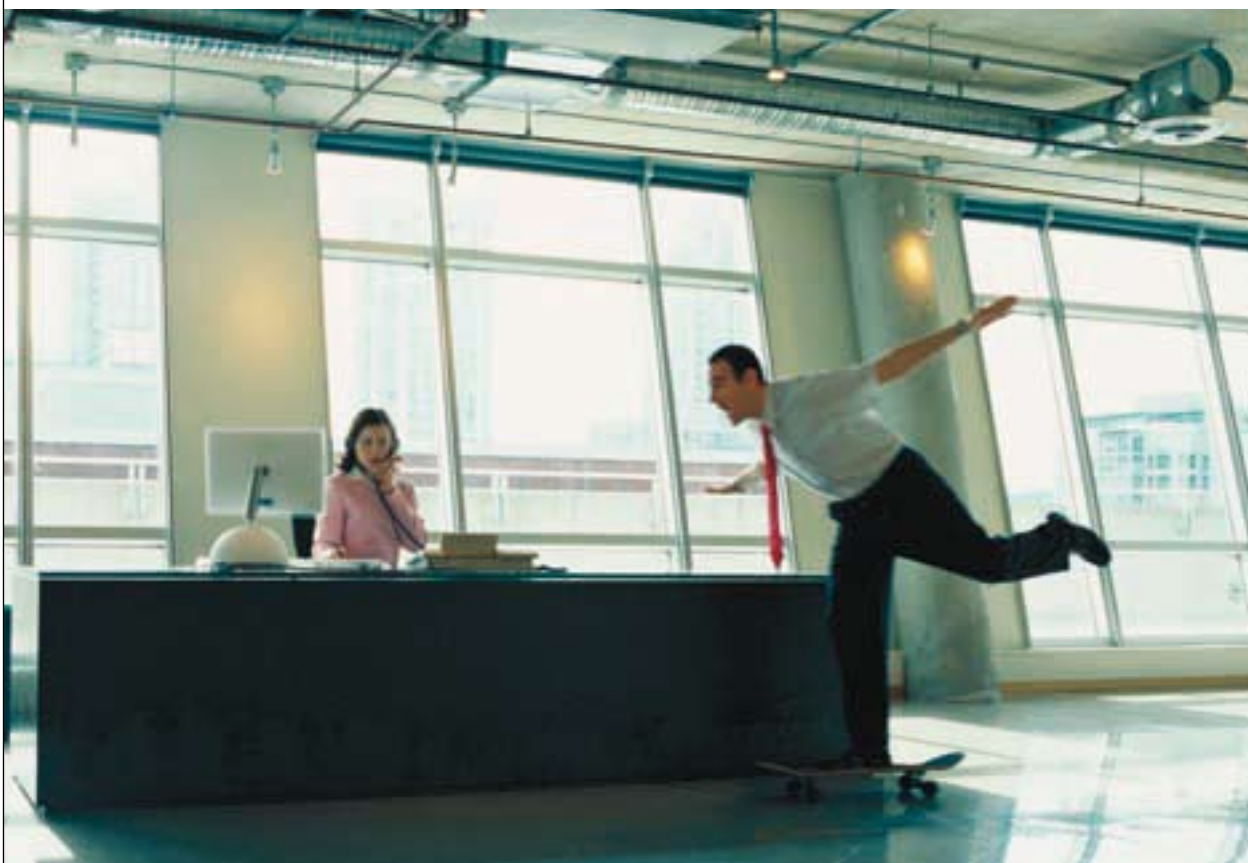
5 ‘Somebody needs to be.’ Calvin Carter had revised his earlier opinion of her. She was charming and even though she had lipstick on her teeth, at least she was *wearing* lipstick. ‘Thank you, Ashling, we’ll be in touch.’

Ashling shook hands with both men, once more taking the  
10 opportunity to give Jack Devine’s wound a good, hard squeeze.

‘Hey, I liked her,’ Calvin Carter laughed.

‘I didn’t,’ Jack Devine said, moodily.°

‘I said I liked her,’ Calvin Carter repeated. He wasn’t used to being disagreed with. ‘She’s reliable and resourceful. Give her the  
15 job.’



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### READ & REACT

1. Describe the way Ashling looked when going to the interview.
2. What kind of job had Ashling applied for before?
3. What was the main reason for Jack Devine's foul mood?
4. What made Calvin Carter choose Ashling for the job?
5. Find sentences in the text that depict Calvin and Jack's relationship.

### REFLECT & SHARE

1. What do you think is the purpose of making the interviewees wait before seeing them?
2. Being equipped with a lucky pebble might be one way of overcoming pre-interview anxiety. What more effective and reliable ways would you suggest?
3. Although Ashling finally ends up getting the job, she still commits several serious mistakes during the interview. Which ones can you find? Suggest alternative ways of handling these situations.
4. In your opinion, why did Ashling decide that the red hat was inappropriate for the situation?



### WORD WORK

#### A. Adjectives and adverbs

Fill in the right form of the words in the box.

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| moody/moodily     | timid/ly        |
| incidental/ly     | embarrassing/ly |
| current/ly        | vague/ly        |
| reliable/reliably | meticulous/ly   |
| elaborate/ly      |                 |

1. (*pålitlig*)
  - a) Rubbing her lucky Buddha had always been a ... precaution.
  - b) Ashling had been ... informed by her horoscope that this would be a good day.



2. (*pinsam, genant*)
  - a) She felt that what had happened at her previous job had been ...
  - b) She thought losing her job was ... juvenile.
  - c) Now she felt her options were ... few.
3. (*tillfällig; av en tillfällighet*)
  - a) The receptionist sounded as though she smoked forty cigarettes a day – which ... she did.
  - b) Any similarity to real people is purely ...
4. (*aktuell; för närvarande*)
  - a) The table was strewn with all the ... titles.
  - b) Many articles were about ... issues.
  - c) The process of hiring new staff members is ... in progress.
5. (*försagd, blyg*)
  - a) Typically, Ashling is quite a ... person.
  - b) She knocked ... on the door.
6. (*raffinerad; väl genomtänkt, omsorgsfull*)
  - a) Carter had a feeling that a girl's hair should be more ... than Ashling's.
  - b) His and Jack Devine's questions had been ... planned.
  - c) An interview requires ... preparation.
7. (*vag, obestämd*)
  - a) Jack Devine's role was to ask something that sounded ... relevant.
  - b) He only ... remembered his prepared questions.
  - c) He had a ... feeling that this girl was making him seem disorganised.
8. (*noggrann, pedantisk*)
  - a) One of Ashling's strengths is that she is ...
  - b) She knew that she had even prepared herself ... for this interview.
9. (*trumpen, missmodig*)
  - a) Jack Devine said ... that he did not like Ashling.
  - b) He felt ... because things were not working out his way.

FOLLOW UP

What is the difference in use between the two forms of the words?  
For reference, see Focus on Language p. 287.

Choose five of the words in the box and write five sentences of your own using *the adverb form: -ly*.

## B. Explain the words

Explain what the marked words mean by completing the sentences in your own words.

Example: Ashling chose a muted make-up in case she came across as *flighty*. She *did not want to seem unreliable and lacking sincerity*.

1. Ashling was *devastated* by the prospect of not getting the job. She felt ...
2. Losing one's job was not something that happened to a 31-year-old *mortgage holder*. She had ...
3. The television and radio stations operated from different *premises*. The stations ...
4. The receptionist *growled* at her. The receptionist spoke ...
5. Calvin Carter thought it normal for girls to have a kind of *interfered* look to their hair. Girls should ...
6. Devine was conducting almost *simultaneous* negotiations with technicians at the TV stations and a US network. The negotiations were ...
7. He wanted to buy the US network's *award-winning* series. The series had ...
8. He had also *been charged with* setting up the new magazine. The company had ...
9. Ashling squeezed the finger *on the pretext* of making sure the plaster was secure. She ...
10. Calvin Carter thought Ashling was *reliable* and resourceful. Ashling is a person that ...

