

## **The Interview**

Narrator: David is a Norwegian high school student who is planning to spend his second year as an exchange student in the USA. To earn some pocket money, he has applied for a part-time job in a shoe shop. This job is one afternoon a week, and full time during holidays. He found the advertisement online, and he had to fill in a form in English. After he sent his application he waited anxiously for some days. Eventually he received the phone call he was hoping for, and was called in for an interview. Since this shop has a lot of international customers, the interview would take place in English in order to test David's language skills. Mrs Johnsen is ready to receive him, and asks him to take a chair in her office.

*Mrs Johnsen: Nice to meet you David. First of all, I would like to ask you why have you applied for a job here?*

David: Well, I'm very interested in working with people and in fashion, so selling shoes seems to be the perfect challenge. I visited the only remaining shoe factory in Norway last year, and that really sparked my interest in shoes.

*Mrs Johnsen: That is definitely something we're looking for, employees who have a genuine interest in what they're doing. How would you characterise yourself as a person?*

David: Ooh, difficult question, but I consider myself to be a very service-minded and cheerful person. I'm quite patient, and honest, I think. My classmates also tell me that I have good teamwork skills.

*Mrs Johnsen: Do you have a particular reason for applying for a job while in school?*

David: Well, of course my main priority is school work, but I also like to be financially independent of my parents. I'm planning to take a year in the U.S. as an exchange student, and would like to earn my own pocket money. One afternoon a week, and the fact that I get the opportunity to work full time during holidays, seems perfect.

*Mrs Johnsen: Apart from the visit to the shoe factory you mentioned, do you know anything about shoe brands in general?*

David: Hm, I have many pairs myself, for example, the Nike sneakers I bought in the US, and two pairs of trainers from Britain. This category of shoes started as sport specific shoes, but has now become more general footwear. There is also an interesting story about the two German brothers who started in shoe production together. They disagreed, and each one started his own company, Adidas and Puma.

*Mrs Johnsen: Impressive! You have certainly done your homework! Do you know anything about more fashionable shoes?*

David: Yeah, I'm very impressed by the production of Crockett & Jones in Northampton. The hand-made production may take up to 8 weeks, and many of the lasts are specially fitted to each

client. Of course, these shoes are not for my student budget. Another fascinating shoe making method is the Goodyear welt....

*Mrs Johnsen: Well, I think this more than proves that your shoe knowledge is excellent! As you know, one of the requirements for the job is good language competence. Apparently, your English is quite fluent. As part of the job you'll also be expected to answer phone calls in English. Would you mind that?*

David: No, no, no, I'm quite used to speaking English, so that shouldn't be a problem.

*Mrs Johnsen: What about your writing skills?*

David: I do a lot of online gaming and know a lot of words, but of course I'm more than willing to expand my vocabulary.

*Mrs Johnsen: Thank you, David. Do you have any questions?*

David: No, not really.

*Mrs Johnsen: We have a few more people to interview, so you'll be hearing from us soon.*

David: Cool! But I would like to confirm my true interest in this job! And just to say thank you for interviewing me.

*Mrs Johnsen: You're welcome.*