

1 **SPEAKING** Work with a partner. Read the title of the article and look at the photo. Can you guess the man's job?

2 Read the article. Match paragraphs A–E with these summaries.

- 1 what Ben did when he had this job
- 2 why Ben was a great candidate for the job
- 3 what the job consisted of
- 4 how they selected the best person for the job
- 5 Ben's life after the best job in the world

The best job in the world

A In May 2009 a 34-year-old British man called Ben Southall was offered the best job in the world. The job was as caretaker of a tropical island in Queensland, Australia. The job was full-time but only lasted six months. It involved looking after the island but also doing every activity that tourism offers in Queensland – surfing, sailing, flying and diving, to name just a few. Then Ben had to write about it in a blog. The main idea of the job was to promote tourism in this beautiful part of the world. As the name 'the best job in the world' suggests, the job came with a great salary and brilliant conditions. How would you feel about living in a three-bedroom luxury villa with a private swimming pool right next to the beach? Or having your own golf buggy to drive around and explore the island where you lived?

B It's probably no surprise that more than 34,000 people from all over the world applied for the job. To apply, people made 60-second videos to show why they were the ideal person for the job. Tourism Queensland, the organization offering the job, chose their favourite 50, and then just 16. Those 16 people included students, journalists, TV presenters, photographers, a receptionist, radio DJs, teachers and actors. They travelled to Queensland to take part in different activities such as swimming and blogging. On the basis of these tasks and tests, Tourism Queensland decided to give the job to Ben.

C On his video application, Ben had impressed everyone by riding an ostrich, kissing a giraffe and trekking through Africa. In fact, the year before, Ben drove all around Africa to raise money for charity. For 12 months, he had been organizing and taking part in sports events such as climbing mountains and running

3 Read the article again. Are these statements true (T), false (F) or is the information not given (NG)? When the answer is true or false, write the number of the line(s) where you found the answer.

- 1 The 'best job in the world' involved simply doing what a normal tourist does all day long. T/F/NG
- 2 The job came with accommodation. T/F/NG
- 3 Tourism Queensland knew that the job would attract all sorts of people from lots of different countries. T/F/NG
- 4 Tourism Queensland only met sixteen candidates in person. T/F/NG
- 5 Ben's main reasons for going to Africa were all sports-based. T/F/NG
- 6 Ben's previous experience was not very relevant to the job in Australia. T/F/NG
- 7 Ben got very tired of communicating with the media every day. T/F/NG

marathons. Ben has a degree in science, but that wasn't the main factor in the success of his application. He had already worked as a tour guide, written newspaper and magazine articles, given interviews and kept a video blog to share his experiences in Africa with others.

D Ben loved the job but he certainly worked long hours. He didn't use to have much time for just sitting back and relaxing. He would work up to 19 hours a day, seven days a week. Each day he would do a number of promotional events and press conferences. When the six-month job finished, Ben had visited 90 different locations, made 47 video diaries and given more than 250 interviews. The worst part for him was that at the end of each day he used to have to sit up late blogging and uploading pictures. And although the conditions were great, there was one dangerous incident. In the last week of the job, Ben jumped out of a boat into the sea and an Irukandji jellyfish stung him. People have died from these stings, but luckily a local doctor immediately knew what to do and after six uncomfortable hours Ben was fine again.

E A model employee, when Ben's job on Hamilton Island finished, Tourism Queensland immediately offered him a new job. They gave him an 18-month contract, this time to travel all around the world promoting Queensland as a tourist location. Could that be the second best job in the world?



4 Match the underlined words in the text with these definitions.

- 1 attract people's attention to something
- 2 collect
- 3 give or tell
- 4 a big African bird with a long neck that can run but cannot fly
- 5 a good example
- 6 a soft, round, transparent sea animal
- 7 making a long and difficult journey on foot
- 8 expensive and of very good quality
- 9 a small car used for travelling over difficult ground
- 10 using something to take a decision

5a Work with a partner. Imagine that you are going to meet Ben Southall. Write five questions to ask him.

5b **SPEAKING** Change partners. Take it in turns to ask and answer the questions.

6 What about you?

- 1 Do you think this really is the best job in the world? Why?/Why not?
- 2 What is more important to you in a job – the salary or the