

It's a big day for Jack as he's just got his exam results. Is it good news?

Do the preparation exercise first. Then watch the video and follow the instructions to practise your speaking.

Preparation

Read the short text about school exams in the UK. Fill the gaps with the correct verb from the box.

| | | |
|------|--------|-----------|
| take | retake | apply for |
| go | get | finish |

In the UK, most students ¹ _____ school around the age of 18. They ² _____ exams at the end of the year and ³ _____ their results in August. The results are important because if a student hopes to ⁴ _____ to university, they need to get the grades that the university requires. If the student does not get the grades needed, the student may ⁵ _____ the exams or ⁶ _____ a different university course.

1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

- | | | | |
|----|---|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | Jack's grades in maths and science were good enough to get into university. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | Jack really wants to study medicine at university. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | Jack likes history and languages. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | Jack did badly in the French exam. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | Makayla is supportive of Jack. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | Jack decides to discuss things with his parents. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

2. Check your understanding: gap fill

Complete the dialogue with a word or phrase from the box.

| | | | |
|---------|----------|-------|--------------|
| Even if | I mean | still | I'm not sure |
| Anyway | Although | No | Maybe |

Makayla: Oh, hi Jack. How's it going?

Jack: Hmm, all right ... not great.

Makayla: Have you got your exam results?

Jack: Yeah ...

Makayla: How did you do?

Jack: All right. ¹ _____, it could have been worse.

Makayla: But ...?

Jack: I didn't get the grades I need in maths or science.

Makayla: Oh no, bad luck. What are you going to do?

Jack: I don't know. ² _____ whether to retake maths and science or change my plans completely.

Makayla: But I thought you really wanted to do medicine.

Jack: ³ _____, it's what my parents want me to do.

Makayla: OK. And what do you want to do?

Jack: I don't know, exactly. I like history and languages. I got an A in French!

Makayla: Ah, that's great! Maybe it would be better for you to do something like that at uni.

Jack: ⁴ _____ I can get the grades I need in maths and science, I'm
⁵ _____ not convinced about doing medicine.

Makayla: Mmm, well you have many talents, Jack, but maybe being a doctor isn't for you.

Jack: No, it's not. ⁶ _____ my parents aren't going to be happy.

Makayla: Well, you need to make the right decision for you, even though they might not like it.

Jack: Yeah, you're right. ⁷ _____ I should talk to them.

Makayla: You never know. They might be more understanding than you think.

Jack: Yeah! Aww, thanks, Makayla. ⁸ _____, how are you?

3. Check your understanding: reordering

Write the words in the correct order to make sentences from the video.

1. in maths or science. | didn't get | the grades I need | I

.....

2. to retake maths and science | whether | I'm not sure | change my plans completely. | or

.....

3. you | wanted to | do medicine. | I thought | really

.....

4. my parents | me | No, it's | want | what | to do.

.....

5. the grades I need | I'm still not convinced | about doing medicine. | I can get | in maths and science, | Even if

.....

6. but maybe | Jack, | isn't for you. | many talents, | You have | being a doctor

.....

7. for you, | You need to | they might not | like it. | even though | make the right decision

.....

8. more understanding | might be | Your parents | you think. | than

.....

Discussion

Have you ever had disappointing exam results? What advice would you give to Jack?