

Fifteen

Task 1

Read the following text carefully. Highlight any words that you don't understand. Then compare your results with a partner.

When Jamie Oliver opened his restaurant *Fifteen*, he was, at 25, already a famous TV-chef in Britain. In the kitchen of his new restaurant Jamie trained teenagers who were then generally regarded as 'unemployable'. Most of them had no school qualifications or useful skills and many were from broken homes and had a history of crime and drug abuse. "I wanted to give these kids a break," Jamie said. Jamie financed *Fifteen* by mortgaging his house. "I didn't tell my wife, Jools, about the mortgage until later. She wasn't pleased about that, but she understood what I was trying to do." It was



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a big risk, but Jamie believed that good, healthy food and cooking could improve people's lives because it had changed his own life for the better. So he knew that his training project for 'anti-social' teenagers could be a success because he could easily have been one of these kids himself. "I was rubbish at school," he says. "Luckily I was cooking from the age of eight and it stopped me resenting that experience." Jamie told us that for the first three years the popular press made life difficult for him and his young trainees. "The tabloids were always running 'exposés' of how so and so has been on drugs or has a record for robbery from before they came to *Fifteen*." In fact, by any standards, Jamie Oliver's training project has been a great success. *Fifteen* has trained about 30 chefs a year and by the tenth anniversary of the scheme 340 young people had been trained as chefs and three quarters still work in gastronomy, many of them very successfully.

Reading comprehension

Task 2

Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. How is *Fifteen* different from other restaurants?

2. How did Jamie Oliver get the money he needed to start *Fifteen*?

3. Why was Jamie Oliver so certain that his training project would be a success?

Task 3

Complete the definitions with words from the text.

1. The people on a training course are called _____.
2. The 'Abitur' is an important _____ in Germany.
3. Some people are regarded as _____ because they have no useful job skills or qualifications.
4. Crime is an _____ activity.
5. A _____ is when people borrow money from a bank and use their house as a guarantee that they'll pay the money back to the bank.
6. A _____ is when someone steals money from a person or a place.

Task 4

Find the words or phrases in the text which fit the following definitions.

1. A professional cook in a good restaurant or hotel: _____
2. A family which is dysfunctional, usually because of divorce or separation: _____
3. The addictive consumption of illegal substances: _____
4. To give help to someone who needs it: _____
5. The possibility that something bad or dangerous might happen: _____
6. A newspaper with lots of photos, big headlines and very short articles: _____
7. A newspaper report that contains sensational or scandalous information: _____
8. The date when something happened in the past: _____
9. Any business which cooks or serves food: _____