

The Death of the Entry-Level Job — Answer Key

C1 Business English | Fluency Space | Answers for Exercises 1–3

Exercise 1 — Key Words from Context

Answers to the matching and example-sentence gap-fill in the vocabulary exercise, in the order they appear on the worksheet. Some forms change slightly to fit the example sentence (e.g. tense, form).

No.	Answer
1	to go along with — “I really like John’s suggestion, so I’m happy to go along with it if everyone else is.”
2	indispensable — “Even with the new dashboard, human sign-off remains indispensable before any invoice over \$10,000 goes out.”
3	the pecking order — “Once the restructuring is finalised, everyone will know exactly where they stand in the pecking order.”
4	to draw — “We need a stronger graduate scheme if we want to draw the best candidates away from our competitors.”
5	burden — “Nobody wants to take on the extra burden of onboarding a new hire before the year-end deadline.”
6	nudged — “The model only reached that conclusion because it was nudged toward it by the prompt we gave it.”
7	as opposed to — “We’re looking for steady quarterly growth as opposed to one big spike followed by a slump.”
8	left-field — “I know it sounds a bit left-field, but has anyone considered dropping the feature entirely rather than fixing it?”
9	a judgment call — “Pricing exceptions like this one are always going to come down to a judgment call from someone senior.”
10	to account for — “Returns now account for nearly a fifth of our total shipping costs.”
11	squeezed out — “Smaller suppliers are being squeezed out of the tender process altogether.”
12	inevitable — “Given how the market’s moving, a round of layoffs looks pretty much inevitable at this point.”

Exercise 2 — Comprehension

Model answers only — learners’ own wording will vary. Look for the key facts below rather than exact phrasing.

1. According to the text, what were entry-level employees traditionally responsible for in the “pyramid” structure, and what did they gain from doing this work?

Model answer: They entered data into spreadsheets, scheduled meetings, proofread reports, and kept the operation running. In return, they learned how businesses functioned and picked up valuable new skills along the way.

2. What evidence does the article give that middle management, not just entry-level roles, might also be shrinking?

Model answer: *Managerial roles fell by over 6% between 2022 and 2025, and management now accounts for nearly a third of all layoffs — up from a fifth just a few years earlier.*

3. According to the article, why does AI's “well-documented flaw” mean that human oversight might still be indispensable?

Model answer: *AI tends to go along with whatever the human suggests rather than offering genuinely left-field alternatives, and it struggles to make the kind of judgment calls that actually run a business — so human oversight is still needed for now.*

4. What does the article suggest graduates could do instead of starting at the bottom of a traditional company hierarchy?

Model answer: *They could embrace a more entrepreneurial mindset and start something of their own, using AI tools that would once have required a whole team, then find a way in further up the pecking order as a middle manager.*

Exercise 3 — Fill in the Gaps: Answers

“Rethinking the Graduate Scheme” — correct form of each key word/phrase, in order.

No.	Answer
1	inevitable
2	draw
3	squeezed out
4	the pecking order
5	nudged
6	squeezed out
7	indispensable
8	the pecking order