

The Job of Laboratory technician

A In pairs, discuss the following questions.

- 1 What do lab technicians do?
- 2 What are the qualities you have to have to become a lab technician?
- 3 What makes this job difficult/ easy to do?
- 4 Is precision important? In what way?
- 5 Are communication skills important? Why?

B Listening

B1 Match-up

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 examine/analyse | a information |
| 2 use | b a disease |
| 3 look for | c abnormal cells |
| 4 cross-match | d body fluids |
| 5 perform | e a life |
| 6 provide | f a test |
| 7 save | g blood samples |
| 8 cure | h a microscope |

B2 According to the video,

- 1 The job of the lab technologist is to...
- 2 Lab technologists use a microscope to...
- 3 What do they do with blood?
- 4 Lab technicians can specialise in...
- 5 Is supervising part of the job?
- 6 Is a bachelor's degree enough for this job?
- 7 Why is the job stressful?
- 8 In what way is it satisfying?

B3 Now, in pairs, discuss these questions:

- 1 Why did you choose to become a lab technician?
- 2 Do you think this job will make you happy? Why?
- 3 How much does it take to become a lab technician? Do you find your studies difficult?
- 4 What do you think you will like most in your job?

C Medical Laboratory Technician. Complete each gap with one word from the box. Some expressions are extra and you will not need them:

transfusion	detect	hands	medical	diagnosis	equipment	cellular	analysis
stress	contact	pressure	time	nurses	microscope	health	precision

The medical profession depends very much on people who work behind the scenes. Medical laboratory technicians are not as prominent to the public as _____ (1) or doctors, but they are an integral part of the _____ (2) and science community. They prepare and perform tests to _____ (3), diagnose and treat diseases. This is a highly technical field that often requires the use of complex _____ (4). So if you are interested in being a lab technician, you should be able to use a computer and have the ability to work well with your _____ (5). You should also be able to stand for hours at a time, work under _____ (6), and pay close attention to detail. Accuracy in this work is vital to the correct _____ (7) and treatment of patients, since analyses can be used to determine a match for a blood _____ (8) or to locate an abnormal cell in an otherwise healthy tissue sample. Medical lab technicians usually work under the supervision of medical technologists and have _____ (9) with colleagues in the health professions. So good communication skills are a must. Whether working in a variety of areas within a clinical laboratory or specializing in one particular area every day, these professionals help to improve the _____ (10) and lives of their patients.

Grammar – Present tenses contrast

A Read sentences 1–8. If they are correct, put a tick. If they are incorrect, correct them.

1 I have to get up early tomorrow, because my plane leaves at 6 a.m.

2 Do you go to Tom's party this weekend?

3 My neighbours drive me mad! They're always playing really loud music.

4 Mrs Davies usually teaches Spanish, but this term she teaches Italian instead.

5 My dad is always wearing a smart suit to work, but at home he's often wearing a dreadful purple tracksuit!

6 My cousin is a model. She flies to Paris next week for a fashion shoot.

7 How are you usually celebrating your birthday?

8 I'm taking an evening course in art at the moment. It's really good fun!
