

## A new start after 60: one bite of chocolate led me to reinvent myself at 62

### Level 1: Elementary

#### 1 Warmer

- a. Work with a partner. Take turns thinking of a popular type of sweet or dessert. Describe it to your partner and have them guess what it is. Use the questions below to help you describe your secret dessert or sweet.
1. Does it contain chocolate?
  2. Is it big or small? What shape is it?
  3. What packaging does it have?
  4. What other flavours and ingredients does it have (e.g. salty, has fruit or nuts)?
  5. Do you buy it only on special occasions?

#### 2 Key words

- a. Write the correct words from the wordpool to complete the definitions below. Then find and highlight them in the article to read them in context.

enthusiastic

hire

funding

herbs

moulded

1. to begin to employ someone for a job \_\_\_\_\_
2. formed in a specific way \_\_\_\_\_
3. positive or excited about something \_\_\_\_\_
4. money that the government gives to an organisation \_\_\_\_\_
5. plants that are used in cooking or medicine \_\_\_\_\_

## A new start after 60: one bite of chocolate led me to reinvent myself at 62

### Level 1: Elementary

path

reinvent

chocolatier

full-time

master

6. a person who makes chocolate \_\_\_\_\_
7. a job that is at least eight hours per day \_\_\_\_\_
8. the direction of someone's life or career \_\_\_\_\_
9. someone who does something extremely well \_\_\_\_\_
10. to produce something new from something that already exists \_\_\_\_\_

#### b. Complete the sentences with words from the previous activity.

1. Her career \_\_\_\_\_ includes a university degree in chemistry.
2. We hope to get \_\_\_\_\_ to start a free lunch program for school children.
3. These ornaments are made of \_\_\_\_\_ plastic in different designs.
4. My brother has a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ job at an IT company. He works there from 9am to 5pm.
5. He loves his job and is very \_\_\_\_\_ about new technology.
6. The company is growing and plans to \_\_\_\_\_ more employees.

## A new start after 60: one bite of chocolate led me to reinvent myself at 62

### Level 1: Elementary

*Jane Swayne felt terrible when her children's charity lost its funding. But she found another path and passion – and became a professional chocolatier.*

**Ammar Kalia**  
**11 November, 2024**

- 1 At age 62, Jane Swayne ate a piece of chocolate in Amsterdam that changed her life. She didn't like chocolate as a child, but these chocolates had sea salt and tarragon, and they were delicious! She bought a box of the chocolates to take home to her husband in the UK, and she decided to try to make them at home.
- 2 Jane's husband, John, was very enthusiastic about the idea, and Jane started experimenting with different chocolate recipes. She tried several different recipes and finally created one that she loved. In Jane's opinion, the most important thing is to use fresh herbs like tarragon.
- 3 While visiting some friends in Scotland, Jane got a call from her employer, a charity. They told her she lost her job. At the same time, she saw an advert for a chocolate-making course with a master chocolatier. She said the course was very difficult because professional cooking requires a good knowledge of chemistry. After the course, Jane practised skills like heating and cooling the chocolate to exact temperatures. After she took a second course with the chocolatier, she was ready to try to start her own chocolate business.
- 4 Jane created a small workshop to make her chocolates and began experimenting with different flavour combinations like cardamom and ginger or coffee and sherry. A local company decided to sell Jane's chocolates in their shop, so she expanded her workshop into a professional kitchen.
- 5 By age 73, she had a very successful business. She employed a full-time assistant to help make the 22 flavours and 160 molded designs of the chocolates, and she was planning to hire more employees. She was also giving chocolate-making workshops. Before Christmas, Jane's company makes 5,000 chocolates a week, and she usually works from 5am to 9pm. Jane loves her job and says that if she could reinvent herself at age 62, other people can find their professional passion, too!

© Guardian News and Media 2024  
First published in The Guardian, 11/11/2024

## A new start after 60: one bite of chocolate led me to reinvent myself at 62

### Level 1: Elementary

#### 3 Comprehension check

a. Choose True or False for each statement.

- |  |      |       |
|--|------|-------|
| 1. As a child, Jane Swayne loved chocolate.                      | True | False |
| 2. Jane took some chocolates from Amsterdam to the UK.           | True | False |
| 3. Jane's husband wasn't excited about Jane's idea.              | True | False |
| 4. Jane copied the exact recipe of the chocolatier in Amsterdam. | True | False |
| 5. The chocolate-making course was in Scotland.                  | True | False |
| 6. Chemistry is a part of food science.                          | True | False |
| 7. Jane learned to combine different flavours in her chocolates. | True | False |
| 8. Jane sold her recipes to a large international company.       | True | False |
| 9. Jane's company is still a very small business.                | True | False |
| 10. Jane thinks other people can find their perfect careers.     | True | False |

#### 4 Key language

a. Complete the sentences the with simple past forms of the words in the wordpool.

try      say      eat      begin      see      have      take      buy

- Jane Swayne \_\_\_\_\_ a piece of chocolate in Amsterdam.
- She \_\_\_\_\_ a box of chocolates for her husband.
- She \_\_\_\_\_ several different recipes.
- She \_\_\_\_\_ an advert for a chocolate-making course.
- She \_\_\_\_\_ the course with a master chocolatier.
- She \_\_\_\_\_ the course was very difficult.
- She \_\_\_\_\_ experimenting with different flavour combinations.
- By age 73, Jane \_\_\_\_\_ a successful business.

## A new start after 60: one bite of chocolate led me to reinvent myself at 62

### Level 1: Elementary

#### b. Answer the questions with complete sentences.

1. What did you eat for dinner last night?
2. When did you begin studying English?
3. What did you buy the last time you shopped online?
4. What is something that you tried to do recently? Were you able to do it?

### 5 Discussion

#### a. Discuss these statements.

- 'You have to make mistakes to become successful'.
- 'It's never too late to reinvent yourself'.

### 6 In your own words

#### a. Do some research about a popular dessert.

- What ingredients are in this type of dessert?
- How is it made? What special things do you need in the kitchen to make it?
- Who invented it or when was it first made?

#### b. Report your findings to the class and share your opinions.

Here are some phrases to help you when you discuss facts.

*I / We would like to talk about ...*

*This type of dessert is a / an ...*

*It contains ...*

*According to my research, the process to make it is ...*

*You need ...*

*People first ate it during ...*

Here are some phrases to use when stating your opinion.

*I (don't) think (that) ...*

*In my opinion, ...*

*Another idea is ...*

*Maybe you could ...*