

# Prepare for {IELTS}

## Describe a piece of advice you received at work or for your studies

You should say:

- What it was
- Who you received it from
- What you did after receiving it
- And explain how you felt about it

There is one piece of advice that I was given a while back and it is something that I try to follow whenever I am doing anything and that is 'done is better than perfect'. For as long as I can remember I have been a perfectionist. I'm never satisfied with anything and I have to re-do it or tweak it to make it better. The problem with this is that often things never get finished because I'm too busy striving for perfection.

I can't remember precisely when it was, but when I was working on a project with a former colleague, I was becoming increasingly stressed because the deadline was looming and we still had loads to do. The reason why we weren't making much progress was because I kept going back and tweaking what we had done rather than moving forward and finishing the project. My perfectionism was driving my colleague mad and so he said to me 'you know, I really admire your desire to have the perfect end product, but done is better than perfect'.

When he first said it, I thought to myself ‘**what utter nonsense**’ but then when **I reflected on it later**, I realised he was right and this was incredibly useful and **constructive advice**. If **I carried on** changing **minor details**, it wasn’t going to add much to **the finished product**, but an unfinished project would certainly get us in trouble with **our superiors/the higher-ups**.

When I went into work the next day, I had **a much more positive attitude** and focused on **the finish line**. **Thanks to my workmate’s sage advice**, we got everything done **with a day to spare** and then I was able to make some **final adjustments**. I now try to **follow this advice as a rule\***. Previously, I suffered from **a fear of failure** and that stopped me from finishing things. Some days I do need to repeat **the mantra\*\*** ‘done is better than perfect’ many times, but I am a million times better than I was at getting things done.

**\*as a rule =** usually but not always

**\*\*a mantra =** a statement or slogan repeated frequently

## PART 3

### **Why do young people find it hard to make career choices?**

**Well, there are multiple reasons for this, but I'll highlight a few of these.**

**Firstly, youngsters often dream of becoming a pro footballer or a YouTuber, but these dreams are squashed by parents or teachers who tell them they are unrealistic. For some, they have no other desires and don't know what to do.**

**Secondly, the job market is in a pretty dire situation globally so lack of jobs in many fields makes a difficult decision even trickier.**

**Finally, many never know what they want to do in life so making those choices at 16 or 18 is virtually impossible.**