

Vocabulary in Context

1 Because sometimes people from outside the UK imagine that snobbery is a distinctively UK phenomenon **fixated on** country houses and titles.

- a based on b linked to c obsessed with

2 And according to how you answer that question, people are either incredibly delighted to see you, or look at their watch and **make their excuses**.

- a leave politely b listen politely c change the subject politely

3 So that's another way in which something that is quite positive can have a nasty **kickback**.

- a aspect b ending c adverse effect

4 ... our belief in who is responsible for our lives. It's no longer the gods, it's us. We're in the **driving seat**.

- a in control b at risk c in competition

5 That's **exhilarating** if you're doing well, and very crushing if you're not.

- a rewarding b thrilling c scaly

6 In other words, **hold your horses** when you're coming to judge people. You don't necessarily know what someone's true value is.

- a be honest b be kind c don't be in a hurry

7 And if you open the newspaper any day of the week, it's full of people who've **messed up** their lives.

- a made a success of b made a lot of mistakes with c changed around

8 Psychoanalysis has been **drumming home** this message for about eighty years.

- a gently trying to persuade us of b insistently repeating again and again c wrongly giving out

- 1 ... by moments when what we thought we knew, about our lives, about our careers, **comes** _____ **contact** **with** a threatening sort of reality.
- 2 It's perhaps easier now than ever before to _____ **a good living**.
- 3 And that's a lot of the reason why we care so much about our careers and indeed start caring so much about **material** _____.
- 4 i f you've got energy, a few _____ **ideas** about technology, a garage, you too could start a major thing.
- 5 A meritocratic society is one in which if you've got talent and energy and skill, you will get to the top. Nothing should **hold** you _____.
- 6 And some of the reason for that is that people take **what happens to them** _____ **personally**. They own their success. But they also own their failure.
- 7 No one is quite **listening** _____ enough, but I very much believe that that's true.
- 8 It's even worse to have an idea of what it is you want and find out at the end of a journey, that it isn't, in fact, what you wanted _____ **along**.