


- ▶ accountancy as a career
- ▶ opinions on accountancy

7.1 About business Accountants

Discussion

- 1** With a partner, match the beginnings of these accountant jokes with their endings.
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| 1 How many accountants does it take to change a light bulb? | a) How much money do you have? |
| 2 Why do accountants get excited on Saturdays? | b) Those who can count and those who can't. |
| 3 Why did the auditor cross the road? | c) They can wear casual clothes to work. |
| 4 There are just three types of accountants. | d) Because he looked in the file and that's what they did last year. |
- 2** What image does each joke give of accountants? What reasons can you think of for the image accountants have?

Listening

- 3**  2:32 Listen to a careers consultant talking about changing perceptions of accountancy and answer the questions.

- 1 What three reasons does the consultant give for accountancy's traditional image?
- 2 What three reasons does the consultant give for accountancy's image improving?

Reading

- 4** Read the title, first paragraph and last paragraph of the article opposite and answer the questions.
- 1 Do you think the 'future accountant' T-shirt really exists?
 - 2 Why does the author think it might be ironic?
 - 3 Is the author positive or negative about accountancy in general?
- 5** Read the whole article. According to the author, which three personal characteristics do forensic accountants require?
- 6** Complete the sentences with the correct option a–d.
- 1 According to current perception, the accountancy profession
 - a) contains more attractive members.
 - b) is better paid than in the past.
 - c) has too many job applicants.
 - d) seems less boring than before.
 - 2 The difference between forensic accountants and most other accountancy professionals is that their work always
 - a) involves attendance at major crime scenes.
 - b) relates to information used in legal proceedings.
 - c) requires greater technical knowledge.
 - d) ensures that financial criminals get convicted.
 - 3 Al Capone was finally sent to prison because
 - a) he was involved in a variety of crimes.
 - b) his financial affairs were exposed.
 - c) the Supreme Court convicted him.
 - d) his criminal gang betrayed him.
 - 4 In the future, forensic accountants will
 - a) show how terrorist crimes get funding.
 - b) change attitudes to white-collar crime.
 - c) replace fingerprint experts on crime teams.
 - d) reduce levels of support for terrorism.

Internet research

Search for the keywords *extreme accounting*. What does this involve? What do you think this idea is intended to achieve?

Discussion

- 7** In small groups, discuss the questions.
- 1 How far are you convinced that accountancy's image is improving?
 - 2 To what extent do you think accountancy is a good career choice? Why?
 - 3 Is technology likely to make accountancy easier or more difficult in the future? Why?