

Chapter 8: “Why I Quit the Company” (Select Readings Upper-Intermediate, 2nd Edition) by Linda Lee & Jean Bernard:

☒ Chapter Summary

☒ "I Tried to Be Practical and Almost Ruined My Life"

The author always aspired to be a performer but chose the “practical” path—pre-law and then law school—because a performance career seemed unrealistic .

☒ Grueling Work Life

After graduation, they secured a well-paying legal position at a large firm with excellent benefits—but working 7 a.m.–9 p.m., six days a week meant no vacations and total exhaustion .

☒ Breaking Point

After five years, burnout set in: no time for family, friends, or their passion (performing), and the constant grind nearly led to mental collapse. They realized they were “going to go crazy” if things continued .

☒ A Drastic Change

The author quit, started acting in local community theatre, progressively landed larger roles, and eventually performed lead roles—all while doing occasional legal consulting for extra income .

☒ Trade-Offs & Rewards

Although sacrificing material comforts (a luxury car and big apartment), they gained genuine happiness, valuable personal connections, free time, and daily fulfillment by pursuing what they truly love .

☒ Chapter Structure & Skills

Pre-reading prompts: Reflecting on life choices—passion vs. financial stability.

Reading passage: A personal blog-style narrative tracing the author’s transformation.

Comprehension tasks: Sequence events, scan for key details (e.g., dorm life, golf with colleagues, commuting).

Critical reading skills: Recognize paraphrasing, summarize cause-effect relationships, and highlight pivotal life decisions.

Vocabulary focus: Words like overtiredness, burnout, practical, drastic, consulting, pursue, fulfillment.