

Unit 1 ➤

1 Read the article about women in business quickly and find the following information.

- 1 the director of the Cambridge Centre for Neuropsychiatric Research _____
- 2 a course designed to encourage female scientists to start their own businesses _____
- 3 a British government agency that has looked into the role of women in science _____
- 4 the chief executive of the UK's Chartered Management Institute _____
- 5 a mechanical engineer who attended EnterpriseWISE last year _____
- 6 a business that is developing technology that should help increase the lifespan of oil pipes _____

2 Read the article again. Complete the gaps (1-6) with the phrases (A-F).

- A because of her gender
- B why she left to start her own business
- C they all want to start a business
- D a consulting company specialising in the same field
- E women make up 21 percent of the corresponding workforce
- F men are still twice as likely as women to be entrepreneurs

3 Find the phrasal verbs (1-5) in the text and match them with the definitions (a-e).

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1 to lose out (on sth) | a to belong / try and be a part of something |
| 2 to drop out (of sth) | b to not get something good, when someone else does get it |
| 3 to fit into (sth) | c to depend on, expect someone else to do something for you |
| 4 to rely on (sth) | d to make something possible |
| 5 to allow for (sth) | e to no longer take part in something, give up |

4 Look at the words in the box and answer the questions. There are two extra words.

chief executive stakeholder counterpart participant co-founder peer graduate entrepreneur director

- 1 Which two words mean 'a person of the same type'?
- 2 Which three words mean 'a person who has invested time and/or money in an enterprise'?
- 3 Which two words mean 'a role in a company'?

5 Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

- 1 She _____ on her assistant to keep her diary up-to-date.
a built b relied c fitted d pursued
- 2 Once you have invested money in the company, you will become a _____.
a stakeholder b co-founder c participant d graduate
- 3 The company _____ out on a major deal because they didn't get their proposal in on time.
a dropped b lost c ran d found
- 4 I would describe Arthur as a/an _____ because he's prepared to take risks and has already started his own business.
a peers b directors c chief executives d entrepreneurs
- 5 The number of students who _____ out of university is higher than expected.
a drop b run c fall d conduct
- 6 Lidia is my _____ in the Milan office. Our jobs are almost identical.
a executive b director c counterpart d participant

Science start-ups struggle to bridge the gender gap

Britain's economy loses out on £2bn a year through a dearth of female entrepreneurs

Sabine Bahn insists she is a scientist, not an executive.

'You don't have to be on the frontline. I was never CEO of any of my companies,' says the co-founder of a company that developed the first blood tests to aid the early diagnosis of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. 'Do what you're good at,' she says.

Professor Bahn, who is director of the Cambridge Centre for Neuropsychiatric Research, is sitting in front of an audience of thirty peers from all over the world.

In the room are people working in fluid mechanics, bioengineering and neuroscience. They are a diverse bunch, but share three things: they are all scientists, they are all women and ¹_____.

The course they are attending, EnterpriseWISE, is run by Cambridge Judge Business School and is in its fifth year. The point is to encourage more female scientists working in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to start companies, says Shima Barakat, who designed the programme.

Ms Barakat says that about 30 percent of Cambridge's graduates in STEM subjects are women. 'But out of graduates in these fields who go on to start a business, only 7 to 9 percent are female,' she says.

The gap between female and male business owners in the UK has narrowed in the past few years, but ²_____. The current proportion of self-employed women in STEM is just 14 percent, according to data from the Office for National Statistics.

It is not only the unrealised ambition of potential entrepreneurs that is at stake. Innovate UK, a government agency, estimates that the lack of women in sciences and science entrepreneurship is causing an annual loss of £2bn to the British economy.

But enterprise training directed specifically at women working in STEM is still rare.

That could be a missed opportunity as female scientists find it more difficult to access both promotion in workplaces and funding opportunities as entrepreneurs than their male counterparts, says Ann Francke, chief executive of the UK's Chartered Management Institute.

Ms Barakat says that these kinds of challenges lead many of the relatively few women who pursue STEM research or entrepreneurship to drop out. In the UK, the proportion of female STEM graduates is 25 percent, but ³_____.

The programme at Judge highlights the achievements of female science entrepreneurs and helps participants, who are used to being a minority within their field, to build a network of other female scientists.

Chiraz Ennaceur attended EnterpriseWISE last year, when she was a programme manager at the Welding Institute, a research and technology organisation for people working in welding and joining. Two months later she left her job and started her first business – ⁴_____.

The first company quickly led to a second and, in April, the forty-one-year-old co-founded CorrosionRADAR, a business that is developing a sensor technology to reduce oil pipe corrosion.

'We are conducting field trials in the next twelve months,' Ms Ennaceur says, adding that her team aims to start selling services within eighteen months. The company is targeting oil and gas owners and has started talking to stakeholders such as Shell, BP and the Scottish government.

'Being a mechanical engineer in the oil and gas industry, I have been in male-dominated settings for most of my life, and the higher up I [went] the fewer women I met,' Ms Ennaceur says. She trained first in Tunisia, where she was born, and went on to study for a PhD in mechanical engineering in France.

Ms Ennaceur says she has never been aware of discrimination ⁵_____. But spending time in a female-only setting made her view her day-to-day experience in a different light.

'The emotional experience of EnterpriseWISE was shocking,' she says. 'Being with other people in my field who were all women made me realise how, without noticing, I had been adapting to fit into a man's world.'

The language and culture she was used to in business consisted of pre-meeting sports talk, after-work drinks and the seeming absence of childcare responsibilities. 'Most of the men I worked with had children, of course, but it was clear that they relied on their wives,' Ms Ennaceur says.

In the end, the lack of women in her field was one of the reasons ⁶_____. She is still managing a team of men, but says the workplace dynamic is more 'down to earth' now that she is chief executive, and allows for more multitasking. 'EnterpriseWISE helped me realise you can do things your way and be successful,' she says.