

# The Daily Star 7 April 2009

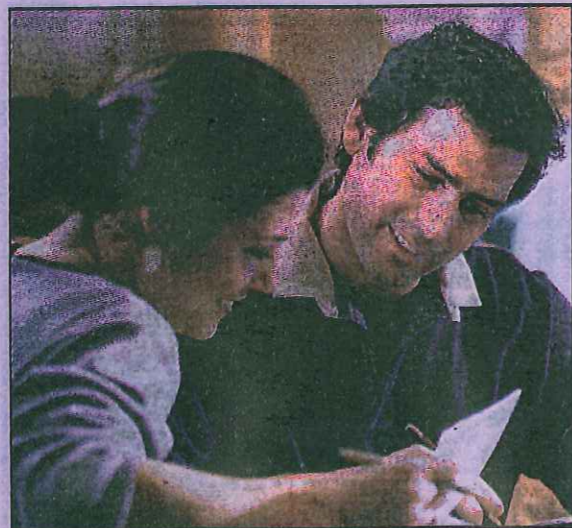
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TRAINING ROUTINE: It's time to swot up on your skills

## Skills fit the bill

**SKILLS** are vital to the success of UK firms, even more so if they are to survive the current economic downturn.

One way for employers to ensure their workers gain the skills they need is through the government training scheme Train to Gain.

This is a national skills service that supports employers of all sizes and helps them to improve the skills of their employees and thus, improve business performance.

■ BY KATIE JAMES

Managed by the Learning and Skills Council, the scheme was set up three years ago to help employers tackle the ongoing problem of skills shortages in the UK.

To date, over a 100,000 companies have accessed the service to provide their staff with the skills and qualifications they need to compete in a global economy.

Under the scheme, employers can gain help in identifying where skills are needed in their own workplace and in finding the most suitable training as well as any funding

they may be eligible for. The aim is to bring all employees up to a minimum NVQ Level 2 standard, which serves as a platform for them to go on to NVQ Level 3.

Train to Gain works in partnership with colleges and training providers of all kinds, from universities to private training companies and individual business experts.

Prospects College, based in Basildon, Essex, is a provider of vocational training across a range of industry sectors, such as carpentry, welding and joinery, and includes the accreditation and training re-

quired for the Train to Gain and Apprenticeship schemes.

A college spokesman said: "We can help companies identify their training needs and provide key skills training, to help improve numeracy and literacy levels."

### INFORMATION:

Train to Gain:  
[www.traintogain.gov.uk](http://www.traintogain.gov.uk)  
Prospects College:  
0800 389 3589/  
[www.prospectscollege.com](http://www.prospectscollege.com)

TRAINING & EDUCATION

Prospects  
COLLEGE

Essex based college specialising in  
Construction & Engineering  
Apprenticeships and  
Train to Gain

0800 389 3589

[www.prospectscollege.com](http://www.prospectscollege.com)

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