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## Audio transcript

**You are going to listen to a recording about training courses at 'Pacific Gas & Electric' (PG&E), a Californian company. First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice. While listening, match the beginnings of the sentences (1-8) with the sentence endings (A–K). There are two sentence endings that you should not use. Write your answers in the boxes provided on the answer sheet. The first one (0) has been done for you.**

**After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.**

"Straighten your leg, drop into it, put your foot right down there by that stripe. Concentrate on that technique!"

That's Ray Atkinson, playing the role of professor at a pole climbing yard in Oakland, California. He is pretty much training his replacement. "I've worked for PG&E for 35 years, so I've been climbing poles since 1980. And technically I could retire any time after January 1st."

Atkinson has a moustache, hard head and deep voice. He's your typical Bob the Builder. His student, Olatungi Lawrence, is a skinny teenager, inching up a utility pole for the first time. He's just six feet off the ground and struggling.

"Right there I want you to drop straight into that pole. There ya go! That's what we're looking for! Now you can lean over this side. ... There ya go!"

Lawrence is 19 and the youngest in his class. The goal of this training is jobs. That's why PG&E calls it the Power Pathway. "It's cool! They prepare you really well for it. You're never going up blind."

Lawrence graduated high school last year. He says most of his friends went on to four-year colleges, like U.C. Berkley and U.C. Santa Barbara. He considered college, but instead decided to focus on a job, because he knows people with master's degrees who still can't find work. "If I can get a job now and work towards that education, that's a great position to be in, instead of having to go through four years of college and owe a whole bunch of money and have no way to pay for it." If Lawrence finishes his nine-week boot camp, PG&E says he'll be a top tier candidate for a job.

Jeff Wilding is a Director of Electric Operations Training. He said trainees like Lawrence are a lot like minor league baseball players. "The analogy is really that if you go recruit somebody at a high school or college on a baseball team, they have to go through that whole farm system before they can get to the major leagues. Lineman in this case being the major league. Those are our pros."

There are a ton of steps to reach the pros. But even a starting job pays \$47,000. If all goes well, Lawrence could be earning \$100,000 by the time he's 24. But he'll have to prove he has the skills and that he can do the job safely. "If they can't do it safely, we really can't afford to have them with us." Wilding calls the Power Pathway a win-win. It benefits PG&E because they are able to test out jobseekers before they apply. And for jobseekers the trainings are free, fast and could lead to a lucrative career. So, what's the catch?

"We get lots and lots of applications!" A recent job posting for pre-apprentice lineman positions was only opened for five days. "13,000 people applied and we have 60 jobs this year." Which makes PG&E about 40 times more selective than U.C. Berkley.