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LIFE SKILLS

How to choose a future career



1 Look at photos A–E of people at work. Tick the things below that the people have to do in their jobs. Would you like to have any of these jobs? Say why.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> work on your own | <input type="checkbox"/> work outdoors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> work in a team | <input type="checkbox"/> do physical work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> use a foreign language | <input type="checkbox"/> work part-time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> go on business trips | <input type="checkbox"/> work full-time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> wear a uniform | <input type="checkbox"/> work with children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> work from home | <input type="checkbox"/> work with animals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> work in an office | <input type="checkbox"/> manage people |

2 In pairs, say which three of the things below would be the most important to you in your future job. Say why.

- doing what you like fast promotion flexible hours
friendly colleagues high salary long holidays
on-the-job training opportunity to travel

3 Listen to an interview with a careers adviser and match the advice for choosing a career 1–6 with extra tips a–f.

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- 1 Get to know yourself.
- 2 Visit a professional adviser.
- 3 Research jobs you are interested in.
- 4 Check what skills and qualifications you need to do this job.
- 5 Consider other career options if necessary.
- 6 Make your own decisions.

- a Be ready to adapt your plans.
- b What are you like? What interests do you have?
- c Get some work experience and meet people who do your dream job.
- d What courses do you need to complete?
- e Choose a job that makes you happy.
- f Take a personality test to find a possible future job.

4 In pairs, ask and answer the questions below. Note down your partner's answers.

- 1 What are your hobbies? What do you enjoy doing in your free time?
I'm keen on ... I spend a lot of time ...
- 2 What are you good at? What school subjects do you like?
People say I'm good at ... I really enjoy ...
- 3 What are your strengths and weaknesses?
I sometimes find it hard to ...
- 4 What are you like? Write down five adjectives to describe you.
I'd describe myself as ... I'd say I'm ...

5 Use your notes from Exercise 4 to suggest at least three possible jobs which would be a good choice for your partner. Justify your choices.

6 Read the biographies of three successful people below. Match texts A–C with questions 1–6. Each question can be matched with one, two or three texts.

Which person ...

- 1 chose a career related to something they liked to do as a child?
- 2 completed his/her university education?
- 3 received advice to quit his/her job?
- 4 followed his/her parents' advice?
- 5 was not discouraged in spite of difficulties?
- 6 was interested in a number of different subjects?

ROADS TO SUCCESS

A In high school he worked as a presenter on the school radio because he had a good voice. While at college, he signed up for a drama course and first got interested in acting. However, he wasn't a very strong student and quit university before graduation. He moved to Los Angeles to look for a job on the radio, but couldn't find one. Instead, he got small roles in film productions. Although he was once told that he would probably never be a successful actor, he continued to go to auditions. Seven years after his first acting job, he got a big role in a hit film and became a Hollywood star.

B She wrote her first story when she was only six years old. Her parents wanted her to study French, so she chose this subject at university, even though deep down she wanted to study English. After graduation, she had a few different jobs in London, but still had an ambition to write books. One day during a long train journey, she had an idea that would change her life: she decided to write a book for children. However, it took her a few years to finish the book. The first twelve publishers that read the story didn't like it, but finally she found one that decided to publish it. Seven years later, she became the first woman to make a million pounds from writing books.

C As a child, he had original and unusual ideas and was interested in electronics. He went to college to study Law, but was not really sure what he wanted to do. Soon, he quit and instead began attending different courses he found interesting, such as Art and Calligraphy. When he was just twenty, together with a friend he built his first computer in his family's garage. They started a new company, which became quite successful. However, success did not last long and after some time he lost his job as the director of the company. He was a bit upset to begin with, but after some time he decided to continue doing what he loved and opened two new technology companies. These companies have later become one of the best known and successful businesses in the world.

7 In pairs, try to guess who the people described in the texts are. What do you think helped them become successful? Use the prompts below or your own ideas.

- determination education hard work
- interests/skills luck passion self-belief talent

8 In pairs, read the quotes and explain what they mean.

“The only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle.
Steve Jobs (American businessman)”

“Let the beauty of what you love be what you do.
Rumi (thirteenth-century Persian philosopher and poet)”

9 Do the task below.

LIFE SKILLS Project

A Choose one of the jobs your partner suggested for you in Exercise 5. Use the Internet to find more information about it. Complete the diagram below.



B In small groups, share your findings. Explain why the job is suitable for you. Does your group agree? Say why.