CAREERS

"Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life."

Confucius, Chinese philosopher

1. Careers Discussion

1. What is your career? Why did you choose it?
2. How is your career going? What do you enjoy most about your job? Is there anything you dislike?
3. Where do you want to be in the next 5 or 10 years?
4. Would you prefer to have one career for life, or to have various careers through your life?
5. How ambitious are you? What are the good things about being ambitious? Are there any negative consequences of being ambitious?
6. What is the difference between an ambition and a dream of doing something?
7. What are your main motivations at work? What are some things that demotivate you at work?
8. What would make you work harder at work?

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2. Careers Vocabulary

- **career break** (noun) – *a period of time when you stop work to pursue other activities, usually with the agreement that you will restart your job after the break.*
- **career ladder** (noun) – *the various stages of promotion for a particular career.*
- **career path** (noun) – *the different directions a career can go in depending on the choices one makes.*
- **career plan** (noun) – *a strategy to determine the skills and experience one needs to achieve career goals.*
- **dead-end job** (noun) – *a job with no prospects for improvement or promotion; a boring job that is not challenging.*
- **self-employed** (adjective) – *working for oneself.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun)

1. Even at 70 years old, he's still climbing the _____.
2. After graduating in political science, Dillon made a _____ to work in the civil service.
3. During her _____, Wilma travelled to Africa and helped build a church.
4. After 15 years working at the company, Hannah decided to become _____ and start her own accounting consultancy.
5. I really need to find something new to do; I'm sick of being stuck in this _____.
6. With a degree in computer sciences, you have many _____ open to you, for example, as a website developer or systems analyst.

Careers vocabulary comprehension questions

1. Would you like to take a career break? What would you spend the time doing?
2. What is the next step for you on your career ladder?
3. What are the different career paths available to you?
4. Do you have a career plan?
5. Have you ever been stuck in a dead-end job?
6. Is it better to work for a company or be self-employed?

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3. Video: Why You Will Fail to Have a Great Career

You are going to watch a TEDx Talk by Larry Smith called "Why you will fail to have a great career."

Watch the video here: https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/business-english-conversation-lesson-plan-careers/

Watch the video and after, discuss the following questions:

1. Should people know where they want to be in their career in 5-10 years' time?
2. What is the difference between an interest and a passion? What are your passions? What kind of excuses do people find not to pursue their passions?
3. Do you agree that many people decide to forget about their dreams because they want to have a family?
4. Do you agree with the speaker that working hard will not lead to a great career?
5. Does a great career necessarily mean doing something you are passionate about?
6. Do we need to have a great career to have a great life?

4. Careers Conversation Questions

1. What would make you quit a job?
2. Is it common for people to have career changes in your country? Would you ever consider a career change?
3. What's the best and the worst time to have a career change?
4. Is a career break a good idea? What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?
5. Is it better to be a boss or an employee? Why?
6. It is said that people are often promoted to their level of incompetence. This is called the "Peter Principle". What do you think about that?
7. What perks do you get with your current job?
8. Do you really need to have a degree to have a good career?

5. Careers Writing Task

Using this **website** for guidance, write a short career plan. Start by stating your interests, transferable skills, personal qualities and values. Next, write down some career options based on your self-assessment. Finally, note down some goals about how you can achieve these next stages in your career.

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