

## How Do I Pick The Career That's Right For Me?

Choosing a career can be a daunting prospect. If you aren't sure what career is right for you, you're not alone – many people your age (and some much older!) are not sure either, and with advances in technology, new areas of work are opening up as quickly while some traditional fields of work are being phased out. If you are sure about the career you want to follow, you still need to make sure you're taking the right steps towards your goal. So, whether you're already set on your future career, or in need of a few ideas, here are some things to think about.

### 1. Your Strengths

Everybody has things that they're good at and things that they're not so good at. Make a list of your strong points – the things you feel you excel in. Think about what you feel confident in doing; what you've been told you do well; what you're passionate about; activities you like to do when you're not doing schoolwork; what you think you're better at than a lot of people. All of these are clues to what your strengths are. Make a list of skills that you have. If you're having trouble thinking of any skills or strengths, ask a family member, friend, or teacher who knows you.



You can then use this list of strengths and skills to focus on the types of work that you might find enjoyable. For example, if your best subject is Maths and you're strongly interested in finance and the economy, it makes sense to develop those interests and skills by following a career related to Economics or Finance. It's a good idea to play to your strengths – in other words, taking advantage of the skills and interests that you've already got. This doesn't mean you can't learn new skills and develop new interests – quite the opposite! By paying attention to what you're already interested in, you can choose the kind of career that will develop your skills and abilities to help you meet your full potential.

If you have already chosen your career, you may need to make sure that you have the strengths required for the job. You may also need to acquire some of the strengths that you need. For example, if you want to be a doctor, not only are you going to need good academic results, you'll also need to not faint at the sight of blood, be calm under pressure, and be able to communicate with a wide range of people of all ages, backgrounds, beliefs and so on. Find out about the skills needed for your chosen career, and do things that will help you to acquire those skills.



### 2. What You Want

People have different motivations for going into their careers. Some people are primarily motivated by money, and their priority is getting a job that is extremely well-paid. Some people are primarily motivated by the desire

