

Dream Jobs

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Who has the best job in the world?
2. Who has the worst job in the world?
3. What is more important in a job, money or happiness?
4. Do you *work to live* or do you *live to work*?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| ___ 1. passionate | a) a frequent change in employees |
| ___ 2. valued | b) having strong emotions |
| ___ 3. attitude | c) your feelings toward something |
| ___ 4. pest control | d) appreciated by others |
| ___ 5. plumber | e) a feeling of being stuck in one place |
| ___ 6. challenged | f) a person who fixes pipes and water systems |
| ___ 7. high turnover | g) a person who works with you |
| ___ 8. stepping stone | h) something that leads you to something better |
| ___ 9. colleague | i) a person or company that removes bugs or rodents from a building or space |
| ___ 10. rut | j) feeling like you need to work hard to achieve something |



Reading

DREAM JOBS

Are you passionate about your work?

1. How important is it to love your work? Some people say it's the key to happiness. You spend so much time at your job that it has to be something you're **passionate** about. Other people say you have to at least feel **valued** in your workplace. Your dream job may still be a hobby, but the work you do must make a difference in people's lives.
2. Is it possible to adore your job no matter what you do? Your **attitude** toward your job can go a long way. A supportive **pest control** worker or **plumber** improves the quality of life of his customers. Feeling **challenged** on the job is important. A job that requires very little effort is hard to do for a long time. This is why some positions have a **high turnover**. Your night job may be a **stepping stone** to your future career.
3. The people we work with have a lot to do with job satisfaction, too. You may be passionate about the work but hate your boss or coworkers. On the other hand, you may work from home but miss interaction with **colleagues**.
4. The money you earn on the job is also important. Do you earn enough money to meet your basic needs? Is there a little left over for your savings and recreation account? If you think you deserve more than you earn, you may be miserable at work. Asking for a raise may be your solution. Some people get stuck in a **rut** at work. They don't leave a dead-end job because they get too comfortable.
5. Think back to when you were a small child. What was your answer when people asked what you wanted to be when you grew up? Some experts say that our childhood dreams are the jobs we are meant to do.

*"If you don't
build your dream,
someone will
hire you to help
build theirs."*

—Tony Gaskins, life coach

Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers below.

1. What does a person need to have in order to enjoy his or her job?

2. Why does the reading mention a plumber?

3. According to the reading, what may be a stepping stone to a future career?

4. What do some self-employed workers miss?

5. What advice is offered at the end of the reading?

Vocabulary Review

A. Matching

Match the statements on the left to the examples on the right.

- | | | | |
|----------|---------------------------|----|---|
| _____ 1. | He feels valued. | a) | Cam doesn't care if his customers are happy or not. |
| _____ 2. | She is in a rut. | b) | Amanda has been working as a secretary for years and wishes she could quit. |
| _____ 3. | He works in pest control. | c) | The café has a new hostess every week. |
| _____ 4. | There is a high turnover. | d) | Igor's job is removing bugs from apartment buildings. |
| _____ 5. | He has a poor attitude. | e) | Customers always call to tell Yan he is a great painter. |

B. Story Time

Work with a partner. Take turns telling your partner about someone you know who loves his or her job. Then talk about someone you know who dislikes his or her job. Find a new partner. Tell your new partner the two stories you just heard. Try to use some of the alternative words for "like" and "dislike." If you use one of the words, check it off.

Alternative Words for "Dislike"

- can't stand
- loathe
- hate
- doesn't care for
- despise

Alternative Words for "Like"

- adore
- passionate about
- enjoy
- appreciate
- love

Discussion

1. What was your dream job as a child?
How does it compare to your ideal job today?
2. What can people do to improve their attitude at work?
3. Think about all of your friends and loved ones. Who currently holds their dream job? (Think back to Story Time.) How did this person achieve his or her dream? If you don't know the answer, send your friend or loved one an email and bring the answer to class.
4. What is your #1 passion in life? Could you turn this into a job? If yes, how? If no, why not?

Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

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2. Is it possible to adore your job no matter what you do? Your _____ toward your job can go a long way. A supportive pest control worker or plumber improves the quality of life of his customers. Feeling _____ on the job is important. A job that requires very little effort is hard to do for a long time. This is why some positions have a high turnover. Your night job may be a _____ to your future career.
3. The people we work with have a lot to do with job _____, too. You may be passionate about the work but hate your boss or coworkers. On the other hand, you may work from home but miss interaction with _____.
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5. Think back to when you were a small child. What was your answer when people asked what you wanted to be when you grew up? Some _____ say that our childhood dreams are the jobs we are meant to do.

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

Students read about and discuss the importance of being passionate about one's work. They practice using alternative words for "like" and "dislike."

LEVEL: Int

TIME: 1.5–2 hours

TAGS: discussion, dream jobs, career, work, employment, passion, interests

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Have students work in small groups or as a class.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. b | 3. c | 5. f | 7. a | 9. g |
| 2. d | 4. i | 6. j | 8. h | 10. e |

Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. Discuss the quote. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 5. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

Comprehension

- In order to enjoy his or her job, a person needs to have a positive attitude about it.
- The reading mentions a plumber as an example of a job that may seem like something you cannot enjoy. However, if a plumber feels valued, it can be a job to enjoy.
- A night job may be a stepping stone to a future career.
- Some self-employed workers miss the interaction with colleagues.
- At the end of the reading, the author suggests that readers think back to their childhood. Their dream job as a child could be what they were meant to do as an adult.

Vocabulary Review

A. MATCHING

1. e 2. b 3. d 4. c 5. a

B. STORY TIME

Individual answers.

Discussion

Answers will vary.

Can be done individually or in small groups or pairs.

Listening

- passionate, valued
- attitude, challenged, stepping stone
- satisfaction, colleagues
- raise, rut
- experts

Extra Activity

For higher level students, consider showing a TED Talk in class.

SPELLING NOTE:

Note that *Toward* is preferred in North American English, while *Towards* is preferred in British English. Make it a challenge for your students to find this word in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spelling.