

Money TALKS

Should I Be Working?

Job Personality

If you don't already have a job, are you thinking about getting one? What kind of work might you want to do someday? Getting your first job can be really exciting: making your own money, new responsibilities and privileges, and preparing for the "real world." But it is important to know how your first job can affect your future. Will this job help you build your resume or further your education? Is it a stepping stone to the next big adventure? Are you actually beginning your lifetime career? Or is it just about making money?

**What Job
Would Suit Me Best?**

Is It a Match?
SKILLS SURVEY

**Putting It All
Together**

JUST SAY "NO"

WHY GET A JOB?

**THINKING ABOUT
YOUR FUTURE**

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources



As you think about getting a job and what to do in the future, start by filling in the chart on the right to learn more about yourself, and find out your abilities and areas of interest. Write down everything you can think of because your answers can help you narrow down what job might best fit with your personality.

What do I do in my spare time?

What are my hobbies?

What are my special talents?

What do I do for fun?

Is It a Match?



Who you are will determine what jobs you'll enjoy and no one knows this better than you. Do you hate it when an assignment doesn't let you be creative? Maybe you study better under the pressure of an upcoming test. Do you prefer to work on a project in a group or by yourself? Perhaps you have sports practice after school, and you'll need to work on the weekend. Job happiness is affected by how you handle stress, which hours you'd like (need) to work, if you like to be creative, how well you work with others, and the environment you'll be working in.

What classes do I do well in?

What classes do I enjoy the most?

What have I always dreamed about doing?

What is most important to me?



NOT My Idea *of* **FUN**

Just Say “NO”

Many teens get their first job through someone they know, but this can come at a cost. If you don't like to brush your dog and take him for walks every night, then you probably will not enjoy working at your uncle's pet grooming salon. It's tempting to take the first job you're offered or to work for a relative; but if you have a choice, be picky about what you choose to do. Chances are you will be much happier and will keep the job longer if it matches your interests and abilities.



Section One: Creativity



SKILLS SURVEY

Complete this "Skills Survey" to figure out what job skills you already possess and maybe don't even know you have.

1. It's your best friend's birthday, so you:

- A. Make a cake from a box, spread on the frosting, and add candles.
- B. Pick up a cake from the grocery store.
- C. Bake a cake from scratch, whip up a batch of your best frosting, and decorate it.

2. You are on a family trip. When it comes time to take pictures, you:

- A. Tell everyone to say "cheese" and push the button.
- B. Smile along with everyone else.
- C. Set up the scene, tell everyone where to stand, and take a few shots.

3. It is Friday night and all your friends are bored:

- A. You suggest going out to see the latest movie.
- B. You let someone else think of something
- C. You come up with something totally different, even if everyone may not want to do it.

4. In your health class, your teacher asks you to demonstrate how you would "express yourself" in a difficult situation; you:

- A. Play along but are totally embarrassed.
- B. Tell him you have to go to the bathroom and come back much later.
- C. Perform a magnificent monologue that sounds just like something you really would say.

5. You volunteer at a local school garden once a month and the teacher asks you to design a layout for a new vegetable bed:

- A. You say ok and find something that looks like it would work online.
- B. Laugh.
- C. Spend the next month with graph paper, books on crops, and colored pencils.

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Section Two: Interpersonal



1. When you are with your friends, you can tell how they're feeling by reading their body language:
 - A. Most of the time.
 - B. Some friends more than others.
 - C. What's body language?
2. People who know you really well would describe you as "being sensitive":
 - A. Pretty much all the time, you are always aware of how others feel.
 - B. Usually, but sometimes you just forget about other people's feelings.
 - C. Rarely. You're just being honest; it isn't your fault if people are too sensitive.
3. When your parents ask you to help out around the house before a big party:
 - A. You agree because you are happy to help your parents.
 - B. You agree after they promise you can go out with your friends in the afternoon.
 - C. You end up in a yelling match.
4. You have a group project coming up for your history class and you really want to make a video.
 - A. You explain your idea to your group, including the benefits of a video project, and they are all excited to go for it.
 - B. You suggest the video but when two people say it's not a good idea, you agree to something else.
 - C. You just go along with the group leader's idea.
5. You are feeling overwhelmed because you have a really crazy day tomorrow: two big tests and a half-time show at the football game. Plus, you promised your parents you would walk over to the grocery store tonight.
 - A. You explain to your parents how busy you are and ask if you can pick up the groceries tomorrow.
 - B. You ask a friend to pick up the groceries on the way home, explaining that you really need to study before practice and that you'll make it up to them next week.
 - C. You pick up the groceries, go to practice, and study until you fall asleep in your chair.

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Section Three: Personal Responsibility

1. Your teachers would say that you are:
 - A. Always prompt and show up to class early.
 - B. Usually on time but slip in just before class starts.
 - C. Often late and running behind.
2. You are helping a neighbor clean up his garage and accidentally break an old picture frame:
 - A. You show him the frame, apologize, and offer to get it fixed.
 - B. Take it home, fix it, and then put it back in the garage before he misses it.
 - C. You just stack it underneath some other stuff. He'll never notice.
3. There are three assignments due at school this week. You approach this by:
 - A. Starting on the project that is due first.
 - B. Working on the project that seems the most interesting.
 - C. Playing a video game.
4. You agree to clean up your room before a relative comes to visit:
 - A. Which is easy since all you have to do is maybe dust and vacuum.
 - B. Which will take about an hour to put everything where it belongs.
 - C. Which would take way too long, so you just shove everything into the closet or under the bed.
5. You are supposed to read the book *Great Expectations* for English class, so you:
 - A. Read the book cover to cover and you actually enjoy it.
 - B. Read a summary you found online, and just skim the book.
 - C. Rent the movie.

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Section Four: Leadership

1. You are planning a movie night with your friends on Saturday:
 - A. But you can't agree on which movies to rent.
 - B. Everyone picks out one movie they want to see, even if no one else likes it.
 - C. You all agree on one movie.
2. You are offered two choices for dessert, you:
 - A. Can't make up your mind about what you want, so you just don't eat either.
 - B. Can't decide between them, so you have some of both.
 - C. Know exactly which one you want.
3. You are going to a new store and have the directions, but there are a lot of streets and turns, so you:
 - A. Realize you forgot a turn and have to call the store.
 - B. Just wander around until you find it.
 - C. Have the directions all written down and have a map.
4. The last time you disagreed with your parents, you:
 - A. Just kept arguing until it turned into a big fight.
 - B. Tried to keep your cool but it still turned into something of an argument.
 - C. Calmly explained your point of view and listened to your parent's opinion until you worked it out together.
5. Being a teacher or a coach would:
 - A. Be the worst job ever.
 - B. Be O.K. if everyone took you seriously.
 - C. Be great!

See page 9 to learn what your answers say about your job skills.

SKILLS SURVEY RESULTS

Look back at the Skills Survey, and for each section notice if you answered mainly A's, B's, or C's. Then, read the results for each section below to help you recognize your skill levels and consider a few job possibilities.

Section One: Creativity

If you answered mostly A's, you seem to have a creative side but it probably isn't your life. You're likely to be happy at a job that allows some creativity but doesn't rely on it – like selling clothes and fashion accessories. If you answered mostly B's, you would probably enjoy a job that doesn't require creativity, like a cashier or grocery bagger. If you answered mostly C's, then you are very creative and probably would be happy at job that allows you to showcase these skills, like an art counselor at a summer camp, or for a company that encourages creativity, like a craft store.



Section Two: Interpersonal

If you answered mostly A's, then your interpersonal skills are probably highly developed. You would do well in a job that requires teamwork or close interaction with customers, perhaps as a food server or host/hostess in a restaurant. If you answered mostly B's, your interpersonal skills are pretty normal and you will do fine in most entry level job situations. If you answered mostly C's, then you probably do not enjoy working closely with other people. You may consider jobs that allow you to work mostly alone, like gardening or working with computers.



Section Three: Personal Responsibility

If you answered mostly A's, then you have a fully developed sense of your personal responsibility and will find that you will do well in most entry level positions. If you answered mostly B's, then you may need to refine some basic job skills (like showing up on time, remembering to clock in, etc.) to truly excel with most entry level positions. If you answered mostly C's, then you probably will not enjoy most entry level job situations. Consider a first job that can help you build these job skills, such as dog walking, running errands, etc.



Section Four: Leadership

If you answered mostly A's then you probably would not appreciate a job with a lot of leadership responsibility and decision making, so consider a job like stocking shelves where your duties are clearly laid out. If you answered mostly B's, then you would probably benefit from a job with some decision making responsibility, like an office assistant or working at the front desk for a hotel. If you answered mostly C's, then you would do well in a leadership role that requires lots of decision making, perhaps a position as a child care provider or lifeguard might interest you.



Putting it **All Together**

Using the results from the *Skills Survey* and considering the chart you filled in on page two, make a list of five jobs that match your skills and that you find appealing. This list is a good place to start from when you begin to apply for jobs.

Want to Know More?

Your school guidance or college counselor should have access to more in-depth job/career personality placement tests.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

Why Get a Job?

Before you even start your first job, think about what you want to get out of it. A first job can give you a lot more than money. At any job, you will learn a new set of skills that may help you land another job later. Consider writing down any new skills you pick up as you go along. If you have a good relationship with your employer, then you will have a great source for letters of recommendation and references. A first job will also teach you a lot about yourself: what sort of jobs you enjoy, who you like to work with, what responsibilities you don't want to have, what hours you like to work, and the list goes on and on. You might have the chance to learn how corporate businesses are structured or what the computer industry is really like. Anything you learn can help later, when you decide to move on to other things. And of course there's the money (that is why you're not just volunteering, right?).





Thinking About Your Future

Tip

Any training outside of your place of work will usually cost money. There are plenty of scholarships, grants, and other forms of financial aid available—ask your guidance counselor. You can begin to prepare now by setting aside some money from each paycheck to help cover the costs of more education.

While you are considering your first job, think about what you want now. Chances are, if you are like the majority of the people in the U.S., your first job will have little to do with your ultimate career. But, that doesn't mean you shouldn't start thinking about your career now. The truth is, the more education you have the more money you're likely to make. Education can be on-the-job training, vocational school, military experience, or college. It's really up to you to decide which way you want to go.

Money Talks...Should I Be Working? Is a series of teen guides and leader's guides. The goals of these teen guides and leader's guides are to assist teens in 1) identifying careers that may work with their job personality; 2) understanding the process of finding and keeping a job, and 3) recognizing the benefits and pitfalls of being an entrepreneur. Comments regarding these teen guides can be addressed to: Consumer Economics Department, University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), 135 Building C, Highlander Hall, Riverside, CA 92521. Author: Katherine Wassenberg, Freelance Writer; Development Team: Keith Nathaniel, Karen Varcoe, Brenda Roche, Margaret Johns, Charles Go, Patti Wooten Swanson, Shirley Peterson and the UCCE Money Talks Workgroup; Graphic Designer: Kerry Decker, UC Riverside. 2010



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