

5. Vlog: Talking about your career or job

Level: A2–B1

Aims: To build vocabulary on different professions

To practise talking about the advantages or disadvantages of certain jobs.

Timing: 45 minutes with ideas for extension

Download from the website: Video 'Vlog – Engineer' (Topic 5_Task 2_Video)

Stage	Objective	Interaction	Timing
Introduction	Thinking about different professions	Pairs and Whole class	10 mins
Task 1	Brainstorming why certain jobs are popular	Whole class	10
Task 2	Watching a video interview of someone talking about their job. Listening comprehension.	Individual or pairs	10
Task 3	Identifying key phrases and vocab used in the interview	Individual	5
Task 4	Developing vocabulary related to other professions		5
Extra task	Interview a family member and write a text about their jobs	Whole class	

Introduction

Students work in pairs to come up with as many professions as they can (in English) in one minute. Elicit ideas on board.

Examples: teacher, doctor, farmer, model, postman, baker, sound engineer, secretary, call centre agent, soldier, architect, lawyer, fitness instructor.

Task 1 Popular professions

From the ideas on the board, each student picks one that interests them and thinks of 2 or 3 reasons why it would be a good choice for them. Ask a few students to share their ideas with the class.

Alternatively, you can ask the class to vote for each job, with a show of hands, to find the most popular 2 or 3 options. Then elicit reasons from the whole group.

i.e. 'Sound engineer. How many people would be interested in this career? Hands up!'

Task 2 Video

Tell students they are going to watch a video about an engineer. Ask 'What do you think are the positive aspects of this job?' Elicit ideas.

Watch video. What does he say about his job?

Possible answers:

Engineering involves solving problems and constructing things in new ways.
figuring out how to make things taller, wider or lighter.
creating or designing things that will be around for a long time.

Engineers have a lot of job satisfaction.
often have the opportunity to travel to interesting places.
can earn good money.

Task 3 Video and script

Play the video again. Students listen and read along. Ask them to mark 10 words they think are useful for talking about your job.

Depending on the level of the group, you could ask some students or some pairs of students to look for words especially important for engineers, and other students or pairs of students to find words that could be relevant for careers in general.

General job vocabulary: dream job, solving problems, projects, figure out something, to feel proud or be proud of your work, typical working day, challenges, salary, well-paid, earn, experience

Engineering vocabulary: Building, design, plans, constructing, structures, skyscrapers, bridges

Additional tasks

1 Tell students to choose a career or job that interests them and list 10 to 15 words or phrases connected to that career.

In groups, each reads their list without saying which profession they're talking about. The teammates listen and guess which profession it is.

2 Using the questions below, students go home and interview someone (in English or German) about their job. They then write a short text based on their interview (in English).

When you were young, what was your dream job?

What do you like about your job?

What's your typical working day like?

Is it a well-paid career?

Why is this the perfect career for you?

THE ENGINEER

Daisy: Hi everyone. Today I'm talking about careers again and I've invited Damian to tell us about his job. Damian, you're an engineer now, but when you were young, what was your dream job?

Damian: Well, as a child I loved building things. I spent hours drawing designs for wooden go-karts and treehouses and then nailing pieces of wood together to turn my plans into something real. As I got older I wanted to do something similar, so I chose engineering because that involves solving problems and constructing things in new ways.

Daisy: Your projects are mostly huge structures, like skyscrapers and bridges. Why is that?

Damian: I like projects where you have to figure out how to make something taller, wider or lighter. And it's amazing to know that the things I worked on will be around long after I'm gone. Everytime I see these structures, I feel proud.

Daisy: Wow! That is amazing! So, what's your typical working day like?

Damian: Ha! Good question! There's no such thing in this job. Each day brings new challenges. The job is always changing and that's part of the excitement.

Daisy: What about salary? Is engineering a well-paid career?

Damian: Well, Daisy I'm not going to tell you what I earn, but let's just say, it's not bad. Like all jobs, the more experience you get, the more you can earn. I don't think I'll ever be rich, though.

Daisy: So that's not your sports car parked outside!

Damian: (laughs) No, it definitely isn't!

Daisy: My last question then - why is this the perfect career for you?

Damian: My work takes me all over the world, to beautiful places I'd never normally think of visiting. Being away from home so often could be hard if you've got kids but I'm not in that situation yet, so I really enjoy it.

Daisy: Well, thanks so much Damian.