

The right job for you

In Real Life

Most adults spend about half their waking hours at work. The lucky ones have jobs that offer them more than money. They also get satisfaction and maybe even have some fun at work.

You can become one of the lucky ones with a little planning. First you have to find out what jobs you might enjoy. Then you can prepare yourself for one or more of those jobs.

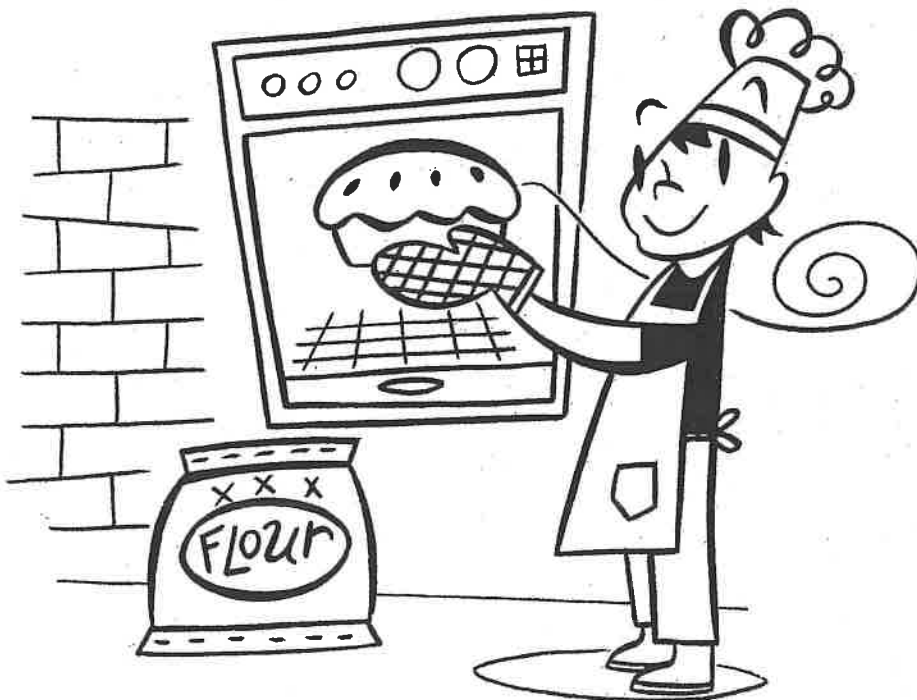
Howie's decision

Howie is a senior in high school, and he's worried. Most of his friends know what they want to do after graduation. Not Howie, though. He has to make up his mind soon, so he can get the education or training he needs for the job he wants. The guidance counselor at school told Howie he should start by looking at himself. "Think about these questions: What things do I enjoy most? What things am I good at? What things do I hate doing? What things do I have trouble doing right? Then you'll know which jobs to seek out—and which ones to avoid."

Howie's favorite subjects in school are science, shop, and phys. ed. He hates English and doesn't like social studies much better. His worst grades are in English and his best are in shop.

Howie enjoys team sports and other group activities. His father is a carpenter, and Howie enjoys helping him with his work. He also enjoys helping out in the kitchen, especially with the baking.

Howie goes to movies and concerts to be with his friends. He really doesn't like sitting still for so long, though. He'd rather invite his friends over to watch TV or listen to music. Then he can get up and move around.



Here are just a few job choices:

- accountant
- appliance repairer
- architect
- auto mechanic
- bank teller
- barber/beautician
- bookkeeper
- bus driver
- carpenter
- cashier
- chemist
- computer technician
- draftsman
- factory worker
- farmer
- fashion designer
- file clerk
- flight attendant
- gardener
- gas station attendant
- housekeeper
- janitor
- librarian
- medical technician
- nurse
- police officer
- receptionist
- salesperson
- secretary
- stock clerk
- teacher
- telephone operator
- truck driver
- veterinarian
- writer

When Howie thought over his likes and dislikes, he came to these conclusions:

- He would like a job where he worked with other people.
- He would like a job where he worked with his hands.
- He would like a job where he actually made something.
- He would like a job that involved physical activity.

Help Howie out by suggesting three jobs he might like. The jobs can be from the list on the left, or you can think of others.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Your decision

What kind of job would you like best? Answer the questions below to decide.

1. What three school subjects do you like best?

2. What three school subjects do you like least?

3. In what three school subjects do you perform best?

4. In what three school subjects do you perform worst?

5. Do you have hobbies that you enjoy? What are they?

6. What other activities do you enjoy?

7. Do you like spending time alone? _____

8. Do you like being part of a group? _____

9. Do you prefer being outdoors or indoors? _____

•Look over your answers to the questions above. What conclusions can you reach? List at least three characteristics the job should have.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

•Now select at least three jobs you might enjoy. The jobs can be from the list on page 15, or you can think of others.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

•Try to learn more about these jobs. You can probably find information in your school library, the public library, or your school guidance office. Find out what additional training or experience you need to qualify for them. Write what you learn on the lines.
