# Beginning the Job Hunt

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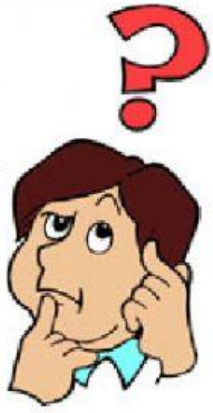

[1] Your years of schooling are coming to an end. A new adventure awaits you! It's called adulthood. You will be set loose on the world to make your own way. You have many choices to make -- where to live, where to work, where to shop, what to eat, whether you'd like to start your own family, and how to spend your free time. With so many decisions, now is a good time to think through some of your options. Let's look toward the future and think about jobs.

[2] To be able to afford a place to live, food to eat, and other important items, you will need money. The best way to take care of yourself is to get a job. There are basically two kinds of jobs to consider. Did you know that? It's true! One is the kind that defines who you are; it fulfills you, and you love it. The other is the kind you tolerate for the paycheck so that you can do what you like in your free time, whether that is windsurfing, collecting music, or partying with friends.

[3] First, let's think about what you like to do. What activities do you enjoy? They may be things you do alone, with a relative, or with friends. List the things you enjoy doing.

[4] Next, think about the things that interest you. What have you read about, heard about, or seen (on TV or in person) that you find interesting?

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5 Now list all the things that you do well. List everything, even if it is something that you don't think will help you get a job. You want a clear picture of your skills and talents.

6 Another item to consider is your personality. Are you outgoing, or do you prefer to be alone? Are you patient or short-tempered? Your answer will tell you whether your ideal job will be working with people or working on your own.

7 Finally, what would you be willing to learn in order to get a job?

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8 As you look over your answers, do any job ideas come to you? If not, perhaps a talk with the school's guidance counselor (or another trusted adult) will help you. If you do have some ideas for suitable jobs, please list them here.

9 Many people land their first job with help from family or friends. Do you know anyone who might help you get a job where he or she works? Write names and contact information here.

10 Your next goal should be to learn all you can about the types of work you are considering. If you know other people who work at those kinds of jobs, ask them what their day is like. Decide whether you could do what they are doing. Talk to as many people as it takes to help you decide what you would like to do. However, don't let anyone make the job decision for you. You will have to live with the results of your choice, so you should be the one making the choice.

11 Choose three possible jobs. Write one paragraph of at least four sentences for each job. You may explain why you chose each job, what your duties would be, and what you

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would need to do before you could convince the business to hire you.

12 Let the adventure begin!

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