VOLUNTEERING



1 Focus on vocabulary

Part A: Match each word or phrase to its correct definition.

1.	grown-up (n)	a.	the ability to guide and influence others
2.	self-confidence (n)	b.	having or showing very strong feelings
3.	unpaid (adj.)	c.	belief in your ability to do things well
4.	passionate (adj.)	d.	activities involved in making buildings
5.	shelter (n)	e.	not receiving money for something
6.	construction (n)	f.	a place that offers protection to those who have been badly treated
7.	leadership (n)	g.	the illegal employment of children in industry
8.	conservation (n)	h.	the protection of plants, animals, and natural areas
9.	child labor (n)	i.	an informal word for adult

Part B: Write the correct word or phrase from Part A in each sentence

1. I think it's better to get a dog from an animal_____than buy one from a pet store.
2. She's_____about climate change and really wants to make a difference in the world.
3. He doesn't have much_____, so I want to tell him how brilliant he is!
4. You need to have great_____skills if you want to be a manager or a politician.
5. Did you know that some things we wear have been made by kids?_____must be stopped!
6. There are lots of jobs in the_____industry when the economy is doing well.
7. Most people can't afford to do an_____job even if it's for a good cause.
8. There is a_____project to protect wild animals in my community that I'd like to get involved in.
9. You don't have to wait until you're a_____to make a difference!

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Ever tried volunteering?

What are the benefits for you and those you help?

1. Do you do the same thing every Saturday? Get up late, do a bit of homework, play some games, watch a few episodes of your favorite TV show? It sounds nice, but it can get boring, right? It might be time to try something different. More and more teenagers are choosing to do volunteer work in their free time, and while they help their communities and their planet, volunteering can teach young people important life skills, too.
2. Teenagers sometimes have a Saturday job or something similar, but in general, paid work is done by grown-ups, and in some countries, it's illegal to do paid work until you are 16 or over. So how can you get those skills that will be very important when you start work as a young adult? Employers and colleges look for people who can work in a team, can solve problems, and are passionate about what they do and what they believe in. They want young people who know how to arrive on time and complete tasks, too. Doing unpaid work can help with all of this.
3. You don't need to be an expert. The organization, often a charity or **NGO**, will teach you everything you need to carry out what they need you to do. In fact, many volunteers get the opportunities to learn how to do things like construction or conservation, which help them when they have their own home and garden. Many teenagers offer to teach and say that they have found the job they wanted to do all their lives. More importantly, most young volunteers report that their self-confidence is higher, they have improved leadership skills, and their group of friends is much bigger than before volunteering.
4. So, what could you do? There are many ways to volunteer. Think about what you like as well as what you would like to try. If you love the countryside, try a local environmental group. If you live in a city, you could join a **food bank**, teaching project, or community garden. Many teens happily spend many hours helping at an animal shelter near their home.
5. Volunteering can also help you find what things you can change in the world. Many of us get very sad or angry when we read about people, animals, or the planet suffering but don't know what to do to change it. Volunteering with organizations that are trying to make a difference can help you see how you can make a difference. You don't have to be an adult to do this. The international organization, *Free the Children* fights against child labor. Craig Kielburger was 12 when he founded it with some school friends in 1995.
6. And don't forget that you already have lots of knowledge, skills, and energy that could be really useful to the team you volunteer with. Organizations report that teenagers bring new ideas and help them do things that would be impossible without young volunteers. You can get a lot out of volunteering, and you have a lot to give, too. So why not give it a try?

Sources: Independent, The Conversation






Glossary

NGO: non-governmental organizations that are usually independent charities

A food bank: a place where people in need can go to get free food

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2

Reading comprehension

Read the text again and decide if the following statements are true (T), false (F), or not given (NG). Talk to a classmate and give reasons for your answers.

1. According to the article, more teenagers prefer to stay at home in their free time than help others. _____
2. Volunteering is not just good for the people you help. _____
3. Some volunteers may discover their future career paths. _____
4. You probably need to travel if you want to work with animals. _____
5. Only grown-ups can make a real difference. _____
6. Many volunteer organizations would close if they didn't have young volunteers. _____

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