

Reading

3 Read the texts. Match the people 1-5 with the best option for what to do after finishing school A-G. There are two extra options.

1 Debbie:

I worry about the future and understand how important it is to get a good job and earn money. But I'm still young and I think I should also have fun. I don't want to move away from home, my family is too important.

2 Jorge:

People always tell me my English is excellent, so I thought of becoming a translator, but I'm not sure anymore. I've never been abroad so I could go travelling, but I'm worried I'd be lonely. All my friends are going to university, so they can't come with me. I'd like to learn new skills but I don't want to do long and expensive training.

3 Carl:

I'm definitely not ready to make any serious decisions about my future yet, but I don't want to waste time either. I'm not interested in going abroad but I'd like to do something satisfying with my time, although I don't want to work long hours.

4 Annie:

I've had enough of doing what my parents and teachers tell me to do. It's time to live my own life. I'm ready for responsibilities, money and independence, although I don't have any idea for my own business. I've worked in a restaurant before, but I'm ready for something more serious.

5 Marcel:

I've never been abroad and all my friends are from the same culture as me. I'd really like to meet new people and learn about the world. They might be able to help me decide what to do with my life.

Finishing school? What next?

A Go to university

Getting a degree is a good choice if you enjoy studying and know what job you'd like to have in the future. Young people with a degree are more likely to get a job and earn a higher salary too. Unfortunately, university is expensive and it doesn't mean you'll definitely get a job. One thing is certain, you'll make a lot of friends and have fun.

B Get a job

If you want to start earning money immediately, this is a great option. Make sure you choose a job where you can learn new skills and slowly take on more responsibility. That means avoiding jobs that are usually advertised for teenagers. When all your friends are finishing university, you'll already be managing projects and telling people what to do. You'll have new skills and money in the bank.

C Start a business

The world is changing and many people now make money doing creative things. It's possible to start a business in your bedroom, all you need is a fresh idea, lots of motivation, as well as being prepared to work day and night. You also need to be patient as it may be a long time before you make any money. If you are good with technology and know how to use social media to catch people's attention, then this may be the career choice for you.

D Travel

There is no rush to enter the world of work when you finish school, and for many teenagers taking some time out to travel is an excellent way to reflect and decide what you really want from life. If you can't afford to travel for the whole year, get a job for a few months first. Experiencing different cultures will also help when you decide to go back home and get a job or do a degree.

E Volunteer

The world isn't all about having fun and earning money. Helping other people is one of the most

rewarding things you can do. There are many local charities that need help from volunteers so all you need to do is choose the one that you care about most. Animals, the environment, homeless people, the choice is yours. You can also control the number of hours you work, which is great.

F Teach English

Do you have great language skills? Some people would like to see the world with the security of a job. A great way to travel and work is to teach English to foreigners. All you need to do is a short training course, then apply for jobs all over the world. As well as making money, it's a great way to make new friends as you'll be working with other teachers every day.

G Follow your dream

Perhaps you've known from a very young age what you want to do in life. Act, sing, model, paint, usually it's a creative job. Don't let your teachers or your parents stop you. If you know you have a talent then now is the time to develop it. Give yourself a year to see if it's possible. If things don't work out, you can always get a job or go to university in the future.

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