

Demonstrating your interests

The things you like doing in your free time say a lot about you as a person, and your personality is relevant to every job application.

8 a In pairs, discuss the following questions.

- 1 If you have produced a CV before, what did you put in the personal interests section?
- 2 Why do employers want to know about your interests?

b ▶ 24 Listen to two recruitment experts, Grace and Oliver, discussing personal interests and answer the following questions.

- 1 What does the V in CV stand for? Why is this relevant to your interests?
- 2 What did Oliver think was wrong with putting 'captain of the football team'?
- 3 Why is it a good idea to list a broad spectrum of interests?
- 4 What personal interests does Grace usually put in her CV?
- 5 What new achievement is Grace hoping to add?



c Match the skills and personal characteristics in the box to the interests (1–5).

analytical skills creativity determination intelligence
intercultural awareness interpersonal skills language skills
leadership skills resourcefulness self-motivation

- 1 Team sports (football, volleyball, etc.)
interpersonal skills
- 2 Individual competitive sports (cycling, climbing, etc.)

- 3 Travelling (backpacking, expeditions, etc.)

- 4 Mind sports/activities (chess, sudoku, etc.)

- 5 Artistic interests (painting, photography, etc.)



d Add some more interests to the list and identify the skills and personal characteristics they suggest. Think about what your own interests say about you.

e It can be more effective to present your interests in terms of who you are, instead of what you like doing, using adjectives and nouns to describe yourself. In pairs, try and add more words and phrases to each column in the following table.

Adjectives		Nouns	
active	former	ballroom dancer	rock guitarist
avid	keen	blogger	sailor
committed	proficient	jewellery maker	ski instructor
dedicated	qualified	mountain climber	stamp collector
experienced	regular	Portuguese speaker	tennis champion
expert	successful	reader	volunteer



f Match the adjectives with the nouns in Exercise 8e to make true phrases for you.

avid reader regular blogger

g Write the interests section of a CV for the following topics. Use adjective and noun combinations, the phrases in the box and your own ideas.

Active member of Currently attending Excellent working knowledge of
Particularly interested in Recently completed Responsibilities included

- 1 Reading Avid reader: Economist subscription. Particularly interested in reading about recent developments in science and technology.
- 2 Walking _____
- 3 Photography _____
- 4 University Social Coordinator _____

h Write sentences about your own interests. Be as specific as possible and highlight the skills you need to achieve the things you enjoy.