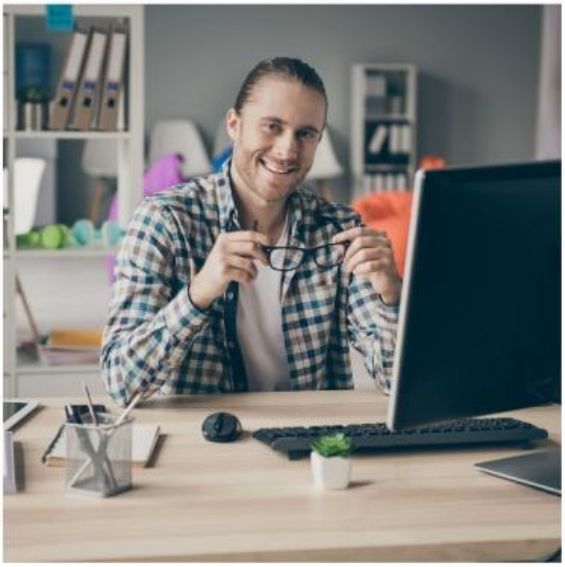
THE CAREER LADDER



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Expemo code:
1HQM-R1LA-A58

1 Warm up

In pairs, discuss the following questions.

1. What did you want to do when you were at school?
2. What was your first job? How did you get it?
3. Do you think you might change your career? If you could do something different, what would you do?

2 Focus on vocabulary

Part A: Match the vocabulary to the definitions.

1.	promotion (n)	a.	making money for yourself and not being employed by a company
2.	self-employed (adj.)	b.	money made as a percentage of the total items sold
3.	resignation (n)	c.	tell someone that they no longer have a job, usually because they have done something wrong
4.	commission (n)	d.	the act of giving someone a job with more responsibility and more pay
5.	placement (n)	e.	the act of officially saying you no longer want to work for a company
6.	sack (v)	f.	a period of time where you do not work because you have reached a certain age
7.	retirement (n)	g.	find someone who is working in another company to work for a different company, usually at a senior level
8.	redundant (adj.)	h.	no longer having a job because there was not enough work for you to do
9.	headhunt (v)	i.	a job done, usually as part of an educational course, to learn about a business

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Part B: Complete the following sentences with different parts of speech from the same word family as the Part A words in brackets.

1. I hear they're going to _____ her to a management position next month. (promotion)
2. After university, I was _____ for about four months before I found a job. (self-employed)
3. I've decided to _____ from my job in sales and start my own business. (resignation)
4. I'm really excited! I've just been _____ to do a painting for the local library. (commission)
5. My university _____ me with a software company to begin with, but I didn't really enjoy it. (placement)
6. There were so many complaints about the way he spoke to people that he ended up getting the _____. (sack)
7. My father has been _____ for about three years now and really enjoys his life. (retirement)
8. After the poor sales in the last three years, around 30 people in the department are facing _____. (redundant)
9. I understand that our Head of Sales was approached by a _____, but he said no. He really enjoys working for this company. (headhunt)

Now in pairs, discuss the following questions.

1. What do you think are the positives and negatives of being **self-employed**?
2. What do you hope to do during your **retirement**?
3. What is the process for **resignation** in your company?
4. Have you, or anyone you know, been offered a **promotion**? What was it for?

3 Listening for gist

Listen to the following three speakers talk about their careers. Underline the correct choice in the following sentences.

1. Speaker 1 worked as **a banker / designer / teacher / accountant / sales person.**
2. Speaker 2 worked as **a banker / designer / teacher / accountant / sales person.**
3. Speaker 3 worked as **a banker / designer / teacher / accountant / sales person.**

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4 Listening comprehension

Part A: Complete the table by ticking the correct box to answer the question.

Who...	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3
a. worked for a company that was doing something illegal?			
b. has no salary for their first year of work?			
c. has worked in two different countries?			
d. changed their career?			
e. has a career related to their degree?			
f. worked for the same company for two decades?			
g. chose their career because of what their parents wanted?			
h. ended their career earlier than they had planned?			



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Part B: In pairs, discuss these questions about idioms from the listening exercise.

1. What happens if something **catches your eye**?

2. What does it mean if something happens **right off the bat**?

3. If you **do** a job **at the expense of** your happiness, how do you feel?

4. What are you doing if you **take something to the next level**?

5. What happens if your career **goes from strength to strength**?

6. If someone **takes the fall** for something, what does it mean?

5 Finding vocabulary

Find words in the article on page five which mean the same as the following.

1. _____ knowing a job well enough to do it very well (adj., para. A)
2. _____ receiving a good salary for a job (adj., para. A)
3. _____ the work which you are responsible for morally or legally (n, para. A)
4. _____ being responsible for someone else's job while they are away for a period of time (adj., para. A)
5. _____ working for no pay because you think the job is important (adj., para. B)
6. _____ doing a job for a limited amount of time (adj., para. C)
7. _____ not doing a job permanently (adj., para. C)
8. _____ someone who has the knowledge and skills to do a job that most other people can't do (n, para. C)

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Career Pathways

The route I took.

Every month, we ask readers to tell us about their careers and their highs and lows. This month, we hear from Troy McGhee.

A. At university, I did Computer Science and I've always been interested in creating software. I feel like a magician because I can write lines of code into a computer and make almost anything appear on the screen that I want. I started my career in the gaming industry. There weren't too many people who can do what I do as it's quite skilled, so it was quite well paid. When I was younger, I went a bit mad and bought a ridiculously fast car and a beautiful apartment in an expensive area of Sydney, Australia. I was quite ambitious and saw it as my duty to make the best games on the market. At one point, I ended up as acting manager of the department after the previous manager resigned, but found I was dealing with people a lot more than the actual programming which I didn't enjoy. This was a real turning point for me because it made me rethink what I was doing with my career. If I didn't want to go up and end up at the top, what did I want to do?

B. I decided to take a break from my career and went to Indonesia to do some voluntary work. One of the towns on Sulawesi had just been hit by a tsunami and they needed help with finding shelter for people and dealing with all the damage that had been caused. I taught some English while I was there and helped set up computer systems for the local people so they could be warned of future natural disasters. After that, I didn't want to return to making computer games. I think I realised that I really enjoyed feeling useful and helping others. As good as the money was in my old job, I didn't really feel like I was changing the world exactly.

C. So, I became self-employed and started to take temporary contracts with different software firms and doing some casual English teaching. I liked the balance of creating things on my own, but also meeting people in the classroom. Now I'm working as a specialist creating educational games for children. I still teach once a week on a voluntary basis which is great because I get to try out my new games with the students and get first-hand feedback. They have no problem telling me if they think it's boring or not useful, which is great. It has really helped me to make some fantastic software, but now I feel as though I'm doing something useful with my life.

6 Reading comprehension

Read the following sentences and decide if they are true (T), false (F) or not given (NG).

1. Troy started his career entertaining people with magic. _____
2. Troy was quite competitive early on in his career. _____
3. Troy used his knowledge of computers in Indonesia. _____
4. Troy trained as an English teacher. _____
5. Troy's work in Indonesia changed his ideas about what he wanted to do in his career. _____
6. Troy doesn't make as much money now as he used to. _____
7. Troy stopped teaching and returned to just working with computers. _____
8. It is important to Troy to feel as though he's helping others. _____

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7 Talking point

In pairs, discuss the following questions.

1. What do you want to achieve with your career?
2. Are you interested in doing further education or training for your career? If not, why? If so, what are you interested in doing?
3. What do you think about Troy's career? Do you think he's been successful? Why/why not?
4. What would you need to do to take your career to the next level?

8 Extended activity/Homework

Write a few paragraphs about your career by imagining you are at the end of your career just before you retire. Consider the following questions:

- What did you do in your career?
- Did you change your career?
- Which jobs did you enjoy most?
- What did you enjoy least?
- What did you find most rewarding?
- What did you do in your career that you are most proud of?

You should:

- Write at least 250 words
- Check your grammar, spelling and punctuation

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Transcripts

3. Listening for gist

Speaker 1: Growing up in Maryland in the US, I always really wanted to experience different cultures beyond America. When it came to applying to universities, there was one in Bournemouth in the UK which really caught my eye. I really liked their programme, particularly because towards the end of my course it would allow me to do a placement and get first-hand experience in design, my area of study. Eventually, I managed to get a position with a company in Bristol. Honestly, it was actually a pretty difficult year because I didn't get paid. It was strange dressing in a suit each day like a professional but then coming home and eating baked beans like a student. But I gained some fantastic experience that could never be taught. It went so well that they offered me a promotion to junior designer. I eventually returned to the US, and I work in Boston now, but having that solid work experience right off the bat gave me a really solid beginning to my career.

Speaker 2: After school, I found myself working in a bank because it seemed like a good idea at the time. I moved up the career ladder into management and bought things to make me happy, but I felt as though I was doing my job at the expense of my happiness. One weekend, I walked past an art shop and bought some colour pencils. I spent hours drawing as a kid, but my parents always thought it was a waste of time. Before long, I was spending every evening drawing and painting, weekends too. After a few years of this, a larger bank took over mine and after over twenty years of work, I was made redundant in weeks. Fortunately, my package meant that I didn't need to work immediately. I decided to be self-employed as an artist. If it didn't work, I could always go back to a bank. I sold my first painting after three months for £50, but it felt like £10,000 to me. Five years later, I've managed to take it to the next level. I've just had a commission to do all the drawings for a series of children's books. I couldn't be happier.

Speaker 3: I worked as an accountant for several large firms in New York City throughout my life. My career went from strength to strength and I eventually ended up in senior management. In my fifties, I was headhunted for a small but successful business and offered a really good salary. It turned out though that they had been stealing money from clients. Some people had started to notice and the head of the company wanted junior accountants to take the fall for it and my job was to sack twelve people, effectively ruining their careers. I refused to do it and instead offered my resignation. I warned them all to quickly look for other work before I left. I was able to take early retirement and the person running the company is now in prison. Not the way I wanted to end my career, but I have the satisfaction of knowing I acted honestly.

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