

LESSON 8

FINDING YOUR PATH



Section 1. Getting Started: Vocabulary and Pronunciation

Different Fields and Industries:



Agriculture



Tourism



Renewable energy



Retail



Telecommunications

Personalized Career Plan (Goals):



Skill enhancement



Career milestones



Vocational objectives



Industry certifications



Language proficiency

Verbs and Phrasal Verbs:



Navigate career trajectories



Develop marketable skills



Explore local opportunities



Set professional objectives

Idiomatic Expressions:



Carve out a space in the job market



Follow a career path in sync with the region



A steppingstone to success in the local market



Find one's place in the industry

Verbs and Phrasal Verbs:



Break into a competitive local field



Turn challenges into opportunities



Hit the ground running



To be a trailblazer in the regional job market

Idiomatic Expressions:



Ahead of the curve



Break the mold



Carve out a niche



Jump on the bandwagon



Keep one's options open

Pronunciation:

Practice the pronunciation of the words in the table below, focusing on the common sounds in each group. Repeat the words multiple times, emphasizing the specific sounds to strengthen your pronunciation skills.



Sound

Words

/sh/

"certifications," "milestones,"
"recognitions," "challenges,"

/k/

"challenges," "strive," "excellence,"

/m/

"memorable," "moments," "milestone"



LESSON 8

CAREER GUIDANCE IN DIFFERENT FIELDS & INDUSTRIES



WARM-UP ACTIVITY Explore Your Future

Think about the many career options available today.
Complete the activities below and share your ideas.



ACTIVITY 1 – FIELDS & INDUSTRIES EXPLORATION

Match each field with the industry it is most related to.

FIELDS

- 1  Technology •
- 2  Health Sciences •
- 3  Business •
- 4  Creative Arts •
- 5  Environmental Studies •
- 6  Education •

INDUSTRIES

- A  Hospitals, clinics, biotechnology
- B  Advertising, design, media, entertainment
- C  Software, data, AI, cybersecurity
- D  Schools, universities, training centers
- E  Finance, marketing, management, consulting
- F  Renewable energy, conservation, sustainability



ACTIVITY 2 – YOUR INTERESTS

Write three fields that interest you.
Then, explain why.

- 1 _____

- 2 _____

- 3 _____



ACTIVITY 3 – DISCUSSION

Work in groups and discuss the questions.

- 1 What skills do you need for the careers you are interested in?
.....
- 2 Which industries do you think will grow the most in the future? Why?
.....
- 3 What kind of work environment do you prefer? Why?
.....
- 4 How can your studies today help you achieve your future career goals?
.....



THINK & SHARE

Complete the sentence and share it with the class.

My future career will allow me to _____
because _____



LESSON 8

GRAMMAR FUNDAMENTALS

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE IN VARIOUS FIELDS

Learn and practice key grammar structures to talk about career choices and opportunities.



VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE

Discussing vocational guidance in various fields and industries involves exploring **career options** and making informed decisions about one's professional path. Here's a detailed explanation of the structures and expressions used in this context.



1. CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTIONS

Correlative conjunctions are pairs of words used to connect elements within a sentence. They work in pairs to join words, phrases, or clauses with equal importance.

EXAMPLE

"**Either** you pursue a degree in business, **or** you explore entrepreneurship."

In this sentence, "either...or" is a correlative conjunction pair that presents two options for vocational paths.



YOUR NOTES & EXAMPLES



2. PHRASAL VERBS RELATED TO THE TOPIC

Phrasal verbs are combinations of verbs and particles (usually prepositions or adverbs) that create idiomatic expressions with meanings different from the individual words. In the context of vocational guidance, phrasal verbs often relate to exploring new opportunities or starting one's own business.

EXAMPLE

"He decided to **branch out** and start his own venture."

The phrasal verb "branch out" means to diversify or expand into new areas, often related to one's career.



YOUR NOTES & EXAMPLES



3. IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS RELATED TO THE TOPIC

Idiomatic expressions are phrases that have a figurative meaning different from the literal interpretation of the words. In discussions about vocational guidance, idiomatic expressions can convey uncertainty, exploration, or decision-making processes related to career choices.

EXAMPLE

"She's **on the fence** about her career path."

This expression means that she's undecided or unsure about which career path to pursue.



YOUR NOTES & EXAMPLES

IN SUMMARY



Discussing vocational guidance in different fields and industries requires using **correlative conjunctions** to present options, **phrasal verbs** to describe actions related to career exploration or entrepreneurship, and **idiomatic expressions** to convey feelings or attitudes toward career decisions.



MY NOTES



GRAMMAR TIP

These structures help you express choices, describe actions, and share your feelings or decisions about career paths clearly and naturally.

LESSON 8

GRAMMAR FUNDAMENTALS

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE IN VARIOUS FIELDS

Learn and practice key grammar structures to talk about career choices and opportunities.



GRAMMAR TIP

Use these structures to express choices, opinions, and decisions about career paths.



KEY STRUCTURES

EXPLANATION	STRUCTURES USED	EXAMPLES
Vocational guidance in various fields	Correlative Conjunctions	- <u>Either</u> you pursue a degree in business, <u>or</u> you explore entrepreneurship.
	Phrasal Verbs related to the topic	- He decided to <u>branch out</u> and start his own venture.
	Idiomatic Expressions related to the topic	- She's <u>on the fence</u> about her career path.



EXERCISE 1: GAP FILL EXERCISE

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate words or phrases.

- 1 You can either work for a company _____ start your own business.
- 2 She's _____ between pursuing medicine or engineering.
- 3 It's important to _____ new opportunities in your career.
- 4 He's _____ the idea of working in the tech industry.
- 5 Either you focus on your studies _____ you risk falling behind.



EXERCISE 2: TRANSFORMATION EXERCISE

Rewrite the sentences using the given words.
Maintain the same meaning.

- 1 You can either study engineering or pursue a career in medicine.
Either _____.
- 2 She's considering whether to pursue a degree in business or explore entrepreneurship.
She's _____.
- 3 He's undecided about whether to work in finance or start his own venture.
He's _____.
- 4 It's essential to explore new opportunities in your career.
_____ to explore new opportunities in your career.
- 5 Either you focus on your studies or you risk falling behind.
Either _____.

LESSON 8

CAREER EXPLORATION WORKSHOP

Explore your interests, discover career opportunities, and plan your next steps.



SPEAKING ACTIVITY

Explore. Reflect. Plan.



ACTIVITY 1 – CAREER EXPLORATION JOURNEY

Work in pairs. Follow the steps below to explore career options and create your personal career plan.

1



INTERESTS & PASSIONS

Begin by reflecting on your interests, hobbies, and strengths. List them in the "Interests and Passions" section.

2



SKILLS & STRENGTHS

Identify your skills and strengths. List them in the "Skills and Strengths" section.

3



EXPLORATION PROCESS

Research different industries, job roles, and career opportunities. Consider internships, volunteer work, or part-time jobs.

4



POTENTIAL CAREER PATHS

Brainstorm potential career paths based on your interests, skills, and research. For each option, write the job title, a short description of the role, the industry, required education or training, key skills needed, and why it interests you.

5



GOALS & NEXT STEPS

Set short-term and long-term goals. Identify specific actions and steps you can take next.

6



REFLECTIONS

Reflect on your exploration journey. Write your insights, discoveries, and lessons learned.

7



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Use career workshops, networking events, and mentors to continue your exploration.

1. INTERESTS AND PASSIONS



2. SKILLS AND STRENGTHS



3. EXPLORATION PROCESS – Industries, Job Roles & Opportunities



4. POTENTIAL CAREER PATHS



JOB TITLE	ROLE DESCRIPTION (What does this job involve?)	INDUSTRY	EDUCATION / TRAINING	KEY SKILLS NEEDED	WHY IT INTERESTS ME

5. GOALS AND NEXT STEPS



Short-term goals (within 6–12 months):

-
-
-

Long-term goals (2–5 years):

-
-
-

6. REFLECTIONS



7. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES





SHARE & DISCUSS

Share your journey with your partner. Discuss your ideas, give feedback, and support each other's goals.



Every step you take today brings you closer to your future career!



LESSON 8

CAREER GUIDANCE IN DIFFERENT FIELDS & INDUSTRIES



SPEAKING ACTIVITY

Research. Present. Inspire.

Explore careers, discover opportunities, and share your ideas with confidence.



ACTIVITY 1 – VOCATIONAL VOYAGE

Research a career, prepare a short presentation, and inspire your classmates.

INSTRUCTIONS



1. CHOOSE A CAREER

Select one career from the list on the right or choose one that interests you.



2. RESEARCH

Use reliable sources such as websites, industry reports, and professional interviews to gather information.



3. PREPARE YOUR PRESENTATION

Create a 2–3 minute presentation (slides, poster, or digital format) including the points below.



4. PRESENT & ENGAGE

Present confidently to the class. Be ready to answer questions and receive feedback.



5. REFLECT

Think about what you learned and how this career fits your future goals.

INCLUDE THESE POINTS IN YOUR PRESENTATION



Job roles and responsibilities



Education and training requirements



Salary ranges and job outlook



Key skills and qualifications



Opportunities for career advancement



Challenges and potential obstacles in the field

CAREER OPTIONS

1. Healthcare
2. Technology
3. Finance
4. Hospitality
5. Education
6. Environmental Science
7. Marketing
8. Engineering
9. Tourism
10. Agriculture
11. Renewable Energy
12. Human Resources
13. Graphic Design
14. International Relations
15. Culinary Arts
16. Public Relations
17. Event Planning
18. Journalism
19. Nonprofit Management
20. Fashion Design
21. Sports Management
22. Real Estate
23. Film and Media Production
24. Sustainable Development
25. Digital Marketing



SUCCESS CRITERIA



Clear and well-organized information



Accurate and reliable sources



Confident and engaging presentation



Active participation and reflection



USEFUL LANGUAGE

- In this career, people are responsible for...
- This job is important because...
- You need skills such as...
- A degree/diploma in ... is usually required.
- The average salary ranges from ... to ...
- There are many opportunities to grow in this field.
- One challenge in this career is...
- I am interested in this career because...

LESSON 8

CAREER EXPLORATION

Conversation Questions



Work in pairs or small groups. Take turns answering and discussing the questions.



- 1** What are some careers you are interested in? Why?



- 7** What skills do you think will be most important in the future workplace?



- 2** What do you enjoy doing in your free time that could turn into a career?



- 8** How can someone find a job that matches their passions and values?



- 3** What factors are most important when choosing a career? Why?



- 9** What challenges might young professionals face when starting their careers?



- 4** Have you ever changed your mind about a career you wanted to pursue? What happened?



- 10** Is a university degree necessary for success in your opinion? Why or why not?



- 5** What are some ways students can explore different career options?



- 11** How important is work-life balance when choosing a career? Explain.



- 6** Which career fields are growing quickly in your country or around the world? Why do you think so?



- 12** Where do you see yourself in 10 years? What steps do you need to take to get there?



MORE IDEAS TO DISCUSS

- Entrepreneurship: Would you like to start your own business?
- How has technology changed the way we work?
- Should people follow their passion or choose a stable job?
- What qualities make a good leader?
- How can volunteering or internships help your career?
- Do you prefer working alone or in a team? Why?

LESSON 8

LISTENING

CAREER INSIGHTS & LIFE BALANCE



You will hear two conversations about career paths and work-life balance. Listen carefully and answer the questions.



EXERCISE 1: NAVIGATING CAREER PATHS

Listen to the following conversation. Then, answer the questions.

- a What realization did Lisa come to after a few years in marketing?
- b According to Lisa, what misconception do people often have about career paths?
- c What advice does Lisa give to listeners feeling stuck in their current career?
- d How does Lisa describe the importance of success in career paths?
- e What message does the host emphasize as the key takeaway for listeners navigating their career paths?



EXERCISE 2: BALANCING WORK AND PERSONAL LIFE

Listen to the following conversation. Then, answer the questions.

- a How does Elena's admission of being a workaholic reflect on her perception of work-life balance?
- b What specific challenges does Elena mention facing due to her excessive work commitments?
- c In what ways does Carlos suggest individuals can effectively manage their time to prevent work from encroaching on personal life?
- d How does Sofia's advice on stress management encompass both proactive and reactive strategies?
- e What overarching message does Marta convey about the pursuit of life harmony, considering the insights shared by the guests?



LISTENING TIP

Listen for main ideas, key details, and the speakers' opinions. Pay attention to keywords and phrases that signal advice, contrast, results, and conclusions.



USEFUL LANGUAGE

- In my experience, ...
- A common misconception is that ...
- My advice would be to ...
- It's important to remember that ...
- One key takeaway is ...
- To maintain balance, you should ...
- A practical way to ... is to ...
- Stress management involves ...
- Ultimately, it's about ...



LESSON 8

READING

FINDING YOUR PATH



Read about Dylan's career journey and jot down in your notebook his goals, challenges, and strategies.



Dylan

CALL CENTER PROFESSIONAL

COSTA RICA



Hello everyone,

I wanted to share my story of navigating my career path here in Costa Rica. It hasn't been easy, but I've learned a lot along the way. After completing my studies, I found myself faced with the challenge of breaking into the competitive multilingual call center field. With my only skill being language proficiency in English, I knew I had to leverage it effectively to succeed. It was daunting at first, but I realized that every challenge presents an opportunity. So, I decided to turn my challenges into opportunities and hit the ground running.



One of the first steps I took was to recognize the value of proficiency in additional languages such as French or Portuguese. I understood that being multilingual would not only broaden my job opportunities but also increase my earning potential. With this in mind, I enrolled in language courses and dedicated myself to mastering a third language.



Furthermore, I acknowledged the significance of technology knowledge in enhancing my career prospects and securing a better salary. I made it a priority to stay updated on the latest technological advancements relevant to the call center industry. By familiarizing myself with various software programs and communication platforms, I positioned myself as a valuable asset in the workplace. Setting professional objectives remained crucial for me throughout this journey. I mapped out my career milestones, incorporating goals related to language proficiency and technological expertise. I knew that to be a trailblazer in this regional job market, I needed to continuously enhance my skill set and adapt to evolving industry trends.



Overall, my journey in finding a career path in the multilingual call center industry in Costa Rica has been challenging yet rewarding. I've learned that with determination, perseverance, and a proactive approach to skill development, it's possible to achieve success and unlock new opportunities for advancement.



I'd love to hear from others who are also navigating their career paths in the multilingual call center environment. What strategies have you found effective? What challenges have you faced, and how did you overcome them? I made a career plan. I'd love to hear your comments on my career plan. Do you think it is reasonable?

Let's support each other on this journey towards our professional aspirations!

Best,

Dylan

@findingyourpath



MY NOTES

LESSON 8

READING

FINDING YOUR PATH



Read about Dylan's career journey in the following pages and jot down in your notebook his goals, challenges, and strategies.

AS YOU READ, TAKE NOTES ON THESE KEY AREAS



DIFFERENT FIELDS
AND INDUSTRIES



CAREER PLAN



CERTIFICATIONS



VOCATIONAL
OBJECTIVES



LANGUAGE
PROFICIENCY



SKILL
ENHANCEMENT



MY NOTES



LESSON 8

WRITING

MY CAREER PLAN



Take your pen or pencil
and write your career plan.



➤ MY CAREER PLAN ➤



SHORT-TERM GOALS (6–12 MONTHS):



MEDIUM-TERM GOALS (1–3 YEARS):



LONG-TERM GOALS (3–5 YEARS):



ACTION PLAN: