MY ACADEMIC PLANS & CAREER ADVICE

Future Academic Plans & Choosing a Good Career

Next year, I **am going to** start university to study International Business. I am also **going to** take intensive French and English courses because I want to work abroad. In addition, I **am going to** enroll in a summer data analysis workshop to build practical skills. I think university **will be** challenging, and I am sure I **will meet** amazing classmates from different countries. In five years, I believe I **will graduate** with honors and find a rewarding job in a global company.

Choosing a good career requires careful planning. First, students **should identify** their passions, strengths, and personal values. They **ought to** research different professions and talk to experienced professionals before making a final decision. Furthermore, students **had better not** choose a major just because of pressure from friends or family, or they might feel unhappy later. Finally, they **had better** gain real-world experience through internships before graduating.



GRAMMAR EXPLANATION: FUTURE (GOING TO / WILL) & MODALS OF ADVICE

Grammar Form	Function & Strength	Structure & Examples
be going to	Future plans & intentions decided before speaking (courses, majors, study goals).	Subject + am / is / are + going to + base verb • I am going to start university next year. • She isn't going to study medicine.
will	Future predictions, opinions, & expectations (often with I think, I believe, I'm sure).	Subject + will ('ll) / won't + base verb • I think university will be challenging. • I believe I will find a rewarding job.
should	General advice, recommendations, or good ideas (most common & polite).	Subject + should / shouldn't + base verb • Students should identify their strengths. • You shouldn't rush your career choice.
ought to	Moral duty, strong recommendation, or the right thing to do (similar to should, slightly more formal).	Subject + ought to + base verb • They ought to research different professions. • Students ought to talk to professionals.
had better ('d better)	Urgent advice or warning (implies a negative consequence if ignored).	Subject + had better (+ not) + base verb • You had better gain experience before graduating. • Students had better not choose a major due to pressure.

Grammar Check:

- Always follow 'should', 'ought to', and 'had better' with the BASE FORM of the verb (no '-s', no '-ed', no '-ing').
- The negative of 'had better' is 'had better NOT + base verb' (NOT 'hadn't better').

LIVEWORKSHEETS

GRAMMAR PRACTICE EXERCISES: PLANS, PREDICTIONS & CAREER ADVICE

Exercise 1: Complete the sentences with 'be going to' (for plans) or 'will' (for predictions) and the verb in parentheses.

1. Next semester, Maria _____ (take) an advanced German course at the language center.
2. I am sure technology _____ (create) many new jobs in the next ten years.
3. We _____ (visit) three different universities next month to compare their programs.
4. In my opinion, learning a second language _____ (help) you get better opportunities.
5. Carlos _____ (not / study) engineering; he has already decided to study architecture.

Exercise 2: Complete the career recommendations using 'should', 'ought to', or 'had better (not)' and the verb in parentheses.

1. Before choosing a career, you _____ (explore) your natural talents and interests.
2. The scholarship deadline is tomorrow! You _____ (submit) your application tonight.
3. Students _____ (research) the job market carefully before selecting a university major.
4. You _____ (not / ignore) your own passions just to earn a higher salary, or you will feel stressed.
5. High school graduates _____ (speak) with academic advisors to learn about degree options.

Exercise 3: Circle the correct option to complete each sentence.

1. I've already bought my textbooks because I (am going to start / will start) my coding course on Monday.
2. You (had better not / had not better) miss the career fair tomorrow; top companies will be interviewing students.
3. I think online education (is going to become / will become) even more popular in the future.
4. Every student (ought to / ought) prepare a strong résumé before applying for an internship.
5. She (is going to study / will study) abroad in Canada next fall; she already received her student visa.

Exercise 4: Write full sentences answering the prompts about your own academic plans and career advice.

1. Write one academic plan you have for next year (use 'going to'):
   → _____
2. Write one prediction about your future studies or career (use 'will'):
   → _____
3. Give one piece of general advice to a student choosing a career (use 'should' or 'ought to'):
   → _____
4. Give one strong warning to a student preparing for university (use 'had better' or 'had better not'):
   → _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS