

DEVELOPING YOUR TALENTS

You are going to read an article about four people who have taken up a hobby or interest. For each question 43-52 choose one of the people (A-D). You can choose the paragraphs more than once.

Which person

- | | |
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| thinks their interest is becoming more popular? | 43 _____ |
| says they never used to think they would be good at an activity? | 44 _____ |
| says their interest requires a lot of practice? | 45 _____ |
| says other people have liked their work? | 46 _____ |
| says they find another activity difficult? | 47 _____ |
| took up an activity because of a friend? | 48 _____ |
| believes they will benefit from using different equipment? | 49 _____ |
| compares the skills they need in one interest with the skills they need in another interest? | 50 _____ |
| says their creative interests were interrupted by other things? | 51 _____ |
| believes the don't fit a stereotype? | 52 _____ |



How a hobby or interest can transform lives

A Colin Bartley

I'd shown an interest in art as a teenager and people often complimented me on my work and they'd tell me I should develop my talent. But as often happens with young people, creative interests are put to one side as we struggle with our academic subjects or start to take an interest in girls. Anyway, I never really did any painting for many years. I sometimes picked up a pencil and paper and did some drawing, but even then, it was only to kill time. Then a mate of mine persuaded me to go to evening classes with him. It was only a couple of hours every week but it gave me the chance to do some painting and there were no distractions. I'm really enjoying myself. I don't think I'll ever earn money from it but that's not the reason I'm doing it.

B Madeleine Curry

I started writing about five years ago when I did a short course at my local college. I then spent a year studying creative writing part-time at university. I used to be a photographer and in some ways the two activities share similarities. Writers are always observing everyday events, hoping to get an idea for their next story, much like a photographer is always looking for that great shot. Today, writers have the chance to self-publish and there's no barrier to getting your novel into the hands of readers. Because of this, more and more people are taking up writing. Some say the drawback is you don't have the satisfaction of a publisher saying your book is good enough for them to publish. But if people buy your book and the feedback is positive, that's all the praise you need.

C Grayson Collins

Believe it or not, I'm a builder by profession, not the most likely of occupations for an amateur dancer. When I was growing up, nobody in my family showed any interest in dancing and I wasn't any different. That all changed when Karen and I got married. Karen is mad about Latin dancing and we started going to classes together. I'd never done it before so we were put into separate groups but I discovered I have a talent for it. The teacher reckons I have a natural rhythm and feel for Latin dancing. That doesn't mean it comes easily. I have to do the dances again and again before I get them right but I enjoy learning new routines, especially now I'm dancing in the same group as my wife. I'm trying to get my friends to take it up as well. I know they'd enjoy themselves if they gave it a try.

D Sophie Macpherson

I started designing websites about six years ago. At first it was just a hobby but I found myself enjoying it. It's the blend of design along with the need for a mathematical eye for coding that appeals to me. It comes naturally to me, unlike the guitar, which I've been trying to play for years with little success. Over time I found myself getting quite a few jobs, and before I knew it I didn't have enough time to do both web design and my full-time job. So I left my job and set up my own business. I've recently taken out a business loan to invest in new hardware and software. Hopefully, it will enable me to take my design skills to a higher level. I think I'm lucky. I'm doing a job I enjoy, earning enough money to get by and I'm able to feed my creativity at the same time.