

WHERE AM I HEADED?

Do you ever daydream about the future? Ever think about what you'd like to do after high school? You may like to imagine the life you're going to lead, the house where you'll live or the car you'll drive. Maybe you picture yourself as a doctor, judge, artist, entertainer or truck driver.

If you have a goal, good for you! You're one step ahead of the game. If you haven't decided on one yet, no worries. The great news is you don't have to plan out the rest of your life right now. You have plenty of time to make those decisions. But it's never too early to start imagining the things you'll do and the places you'll go.

One way to get started is to think about your hobbies or special interests. What do you like to do with your free time? It's possible these activities could lead you to a career that you'd enjoy.

Check out the following pages to identify activities that you think sound interesting. You don't have to be good at the activities—just check them if you think they're something you'd like to explore or learn more about.

After some exploration, you'll be able to see if you're a persuader, thinker, organizer, creator, helper or doer. By identifying your interests and figuring out which category fits you best, you just might find a career that can help make your dreams come true.





- ___ Supervising people
- ___ Saving and managing money
- ___ Being elected class president
- ___ Selling something
- ___ Convincing people to do things your way
- ___ Talking to people at a party

- ___ Studying bugs or plants
- ___ Learning about the solar system
- ___ Solving hard math problems
- ___ Reading about art or music
- ___ Asking questions
- ___ Participating in a science fair



- ___ Being organized
- ___ Creating a filing system
- ___ Using a cash register
- ___ Paying attention to details
- ___ Following directions
- ___ Working with numbers

- ___ Performing in front of an audience
- ___ Redecorating your room
- ___ Drawing or painting a picture
- ___ Learning a foreign language
- ___ Helping people solve problems
- ___ Using your imagination



- ___ Volunteering with a charity
- ___ Making people laugh
- ___ Babysitting or teaching children
- ___ Joining a club
- ___ Working with older people
- ___ Planning events or activities

- ___ Building things with your hands
- ___ Doing outdoor activities
- ___ Running a race
- ___ Studying animals
- ___ Painting a piece of furniture
- ___ Playing with a chemistry set



Now it's time to do some math! Look back at your worksheet and count how many times you checked something in each of the categories and then record your answers below.













Each of the letters stands for an interest group. Each interest group has jobs that tend to go along with it. The letter that has the highest score represents your primary interest group.

- E** stands for **enterprising**. If most of the activities you checked are from this category you're a persuader who's competitive and a natural leader. You might enjoy working where you can start projects or develop new products or ideas. You like action and enjoy persuading people to do things your way. Consider exploring sales, real estate, politics or owning your own business.
- I** is for **investigative**. If you mostly chose these activities, you're a thinker who probably likes finding facts, exploring and problem-solving. You might enjoy working in finance or math, as a teacher, or as a doctor or engineer.
- C** is for **conventional**. Conventional people are organizers who may like working with information, numbers and details. Accounting, business or banking may be just the field for you.
- A** is for **artistic**. Artistic people are creators who like things to be unique and original. If "A" is your primary interest group, consider working in an environment where you're free to use your imagination. Art therapy, animation, music, painting or acting may be areas of interest for you.
- S** is for **social**. Being social means you're a helper who's probably cooperative and supportive, and you like to take care of people or things. Helpers tend to make good nurses, athletic trainers, counselors or social workers.
- R** is for **realistic**. Realistic people are doers who are hands-on, practical people. You may be a natural athlete or you might enjoy being outdoors. Doers make good police officers, veterinarians, mechanics, architects or landscapers.

Just because you score highest in one primary interest group doesn't mean you have to take a job that relates to that interest. These are simply ideas to point you in the direction of careers you might enjoy.

So how do you find out if you'll really like a job or not? Get involved in activities that relate to your interests. For example, if you think you'd like to work with animals, consider joining 4-H, volunteering at an animal shelter or pet-sitting for extra money. If you're drawn to art as a hobby, you could make birthday cards for your family and friends or learn to make jewelry. You have a lot of time to explore your interests before you have to make a decision, so have fun with it!

Think it through.

According to the scores you just wrote down, what interest group(s) do you fit into?

Do you think these results are accurate? Why or why not?

Right at this moment, what sounds like a career you'd enjoy?

Talk to your parents!

Share your scores for each interest group with your parents. Ask them if they're surprised by the scores and discuss what you like or dislike about certain careers.

Tell your parents if a certain activity listed in the interest groups sounded particularly fun or exciting. Share your concerns with your parents and ask them to help you outline the steps to take to feel more confident about pursuing a particular career.

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