



Different jobs and how to prepare for work

KS3 Ages 11-14 ⌚ 3 min read

What kinds of jobs are there?

The world of work is incredibly diverse. Jobs fall into different categories based on what they do and the skills they need. **Manual jobs** involve working with your hands—think builders, plumbers, electricians, and gardeners. **Creative jobs** are for people who love art, design, music, or writing, like graphic designers, journalists, or architects. **Healthcare jobs** help people stay healthy, from doctors and nurses to dentists and physiotherapists. **Service jobs** help customers directly, like teachers, shop workers, hairdressers, and chefs.

Think of it like a sports team—you need different positions to make it work. A goalkeeper plays a completely different role from a striker, but both are essential.

There are also **technical jobs** in IT and engineering, **business jobs** in management and finance, and **skilled trades** that require specialist training. Many jobs overlap too—a restaurant owner needs cooking skills, business knowledge, and people skills all at once.

How do you prepare for work?

Starting your preparation now, while you're still at school, is smart. Focus on **building good habits**: be reliable, listen carefully, and work hard on tasks even when they're difficult. These qualities matter in every job.

School subjects matter more than you think. Maths helps in nearly every career—from carpentry to nursing to business. English helps you communicate clearly, which is valuable everywhere. Science opens doors to engineering, medicine, and technology. Choose **GCSEs and A-Levels** that match careers you're interested in.

Think of school subjects like collecting tools for a toolbox. You don't know exactly which tools you'll need yet, but having more tools gives you more options later.

Beyond school, **gain real experience.** Do work experience placements, volunteer, join clubs, or do a **part-time job** while studying. These show employers you're serious

and teach you how workplaces actually work. **Learn practical skills** too—computer skills, first aid, or language skills can give you an edge.

What else helps?

Talk to people in jobs that interest you. Ask them what their day is like and what they wish they'd known. **Apprenticeships** combine paid work with training—perfect if you prefer learning by doing rather than sitting in classrooms. Look into **university degrees** or **vocational qualifications** depending on your path. Finally, develop **soft skills**: teamwork, problem-solving, time management, and the ability to handle mistakes. These matter just as much as technical knowledge.