

Unit 4

1 Read the article quickly and choose the statement that sums up the main idea.

- 1 Everyone should follow their dreams. If you have a passion for something, then in the end you will find a way to make your dreams come true.
- 2 'Follow Your Dreams' only happens in movies. In real life you wake up and your dream has gone. Dreaming just wastes your time.
- 3 It's better to get a regular job first and then see how realistic it is to follow your dreams.

2 Read the article again and find words that match the definitions below.

- 1 student who does a job for a short time to get experience (Para. 1) _____
- 2 no longer working because you are old (Para. 1) _____
- 3 working for yourself rather than a company (Para. 2) _____
- 4 protection from bad things that could happen to you (Para. 2) _____
- 5 detailed study of something in order to discover new facts (Para. 3) _____
- 6 one of a series of actions you take to reach your goal (Para. 3) _____
- 7 based on facts as they really are (Para. 5) _____
- 8 money that you pay to live in a house that belongs to someone else (Para. 5) _____

3 Match 1-5 with a-e and 6-10 with f-j to make phrases used in the article.

- | | |
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| 1 ask | a some money before you follow your dreams |
| 2 suffer | b a question |
| 3 make | c a lot of research |
| 4 save | d a mid-life crisis |
| 5 do | e a choice about which road to go down |
| 6 enter | f with friends |
| 7 spend | g your passion just as a hobby |
| 8 go out | h a new market |
| 9 make | i a small start |
| 10 keep | j time on everyday things |

4 Decide if the two phrases have a similar (S) or different (D) meaning.

- 1 follow your dreams / do what your heart tells you ___
- 2 time to spare / time to waste ___
- 3 it sounds nice / it seems like a nice idea ___
- 4 need more experience / need to get more contacts ___
- 5 do research / get more information ___
- 6 understand the market / develop your ideas ___
- 7 existing company / current workplace ___
- 8 a passion / a part-time job ___
- 9 a steady salary / regular payment for your job ___
- 10 a 'nine-to-five' job / an exciting job full of new challenges ___

5 Correct the one incorrect word in each sentence to make phrases from the article.

- 1 You might be a young intern working while you stutter at university.
- 2 In our lives we can make a chance: to go down the safe road or the risky road.
- 3 Maybe you need to save some money first, or you need more experiments.
- 4 You have to really underline the new market you are going to enter.
- 5 Look for small ways to drive your ideas before you take a big step.
- 6 Some people prefer to spell time on everyday things like going out with friends.
- 7 In the end the best clue may be to find a stable job with a steady salary.
- 8 You can keep your passion just as a hotel.

6 Complete the dialogues with *have* or *did*.

- 1 A:** Akari, _____ you leave your job and start as a yoga teacher? You were talking about it the last time we met.
B: Yes, I _____. It was difficult at first, but now I give lessons three times a week at a health centre.
- 2 A:** Riku, _____ you ever worked as a yoga teacher? You are so good at explaining all the different positions.
B: Yes, I _____ actually. I did some yoga teaching last summer during the holidays.

Should you follow your dreams?

Should you follow your dreams? This is a question just about everyone asks at some stage in their life. You might be a young intern working while you study at university. Or a manager suffering a mid-life crisis. Or a retired person with lots of time to spare. At any point in our lives we can make a choice: to go down the safe, boring road or the risky, exciting road.

'Follow your dreams' is certainly the message we get in movies and popular culture, and is often what our friends tell us. But let's think about why it might not be the best idea. For one thing, being a self-employed yoga teacher might sound nice, but it does not give much financial security – at least not in the beginning. Maybe you need to save some money first, or you need more experience, or you simply need more contacts to open doors.

Jonathan Black gives career advice in the *Financial Times*. He says that you need to do a lot of research before you follow your dream. If your dream is to start a new business, you have to really understand the new market you are going to enter. He suggests that you look for small ways to develop your ideas before you take a big step. Perhaps you can do something inside your existing company.

And what about those of us who don't have any big dreams? In her blog post 'The Problem with "Follow Your Dreams"', Melissa Kirk says that most people don't really have one particular passion. People might actually be happier spending time on everyday things like raising children, going out with friends or cleaning the house.

In the end, the best solution may be to find a stable job with a steady salary, and at the same time find a way to research your dreams and perhaps even make a small start. Then, if you find your dreams are not realistic, you still have your 'nine-to-five' job to pay the rent. You can keep your passion just as a hobby.