

## Background

### Number one jobs for the 21st century

How many people have the same job for life? And how many jobs are 'safe'? Nowadays, the world of work is changing so quickly and jobs are changing quickly too. What are the best jobs in this century? Here's what we think.

1 \_\_\_\_\_

Wind power, solar power, environmentally-friendly cars – in the next few years governments and industries are going to spend lots of money on clean energy and we are going to change the way we live. If you have the right technical \*skills, you can get a job in the world's fastest-growing industry.

2 \_\_\_\_\_

Can you imagine a world with no computers? 'No' is the simple answer. From computer programmers to video game manufacturers, there are lots of jobs for anyone with a computer qualification and there are going to be lots more. We're living in the \*digital age so it's a good \*choice for the 21st century.

3 \_\_\_\_\_

They are not always the best-paid jobs in the world, but when the business world is having problems and people are losing their jobs, a job with the government is a safe choice. People always need teachers or doctors and your employer is never going to say, 'sorry, we're closing the business'.

4 \_\_\_\_\_

More businesses employ people to work from home. It's saves money. More employees want to work from home because they like \*flexible hours and they don't have to spend hours in \*traffic every day. So our advice is this: look for jobs you can do on your laptop.

5 \_\_\_\_\_

Finally, why do you want to wait for your dream job? Start your own business. Be your own boss and decide when you work, how much you work for, and who you work with.

#### Glossary

\**choice* = option / preference between two or more things

\**digital age* = current period of time where digital technology is very important

\**flexible* = not fixed

\**skills* = ability to do something well because of training

\**traffic* = other vehicles on the road (cars, lorries, etc.)

## Exercises

### 1 Work with a partner and discuss these questions.

- When did you start your current job? Is it your first job?
- Do you think people 'have a job for life' in the modern world?

### 2 Read the text quickly. Match headings a–e to paragraphs 1–5.

- Make your own job
- Government-paid jobs
- Green jobs
- Jobs from home
- Jobs in the digital industry

### 3 Five people are talking about jobs. Which job in the text would be good for each person?

- 'I want to make important decisions and I don't like it when people tell me what to do.'
- 'I have an IT qualification and I love computer games.'
- 'I love my job, but I hate my journey to work – it takes me two hours to get to the office.'
- 'I lost my job when I was 28 and it took six months for me to find another one – it was horrible and I never want that to happen again.'
- 'I have a qualification in environmental engineering.'

### 4 Complete this table of words. Find the missing words in the text.

verb	noun	people / jobs
to program computers	computer program	1 _____
to manufacture	–	2 _____
to qualify	3 _____	–
to teach	–	4 _____
5 _____	employment	6 _____ 7 _____

### 5 Work with a partner. Complete sentences 1–6 with the verb + noun collocations in the list. Look back at the text to help you and change the form of the verb where necessary.

spend money   start (a) business   spend hours   lose (a) job  
close (a) business   get (a) job

- Don't *spend* all your *money* today. You're going to need some tomorrow.
- My friend \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_ yesterday. But he's OK. He can work for his father.
- I need to \_\_\_\_\_ a new \_\_\_\_\_. Are there any in today's newspaper?
- We're losing money every week, so I think we're going to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ on my homework last night!
- A When did you \_\_\_\_\_ your first \_\_\_\_\_?  
B In 1981 – that's when I first opened the bicycle shop.

### 6 Work with a partner. Write five new sentences using words from 4 or 5.

### 7 Look back at the text and choose three words that you could use in your day-to-day work.

### 8 Work with a partner. Discuss these questions.

- What do you think is a good job for the 21st century?
- When you are choosing a new job, what is important? Make a list.
- How is your job going to change in the future?