

Name:

Students will be able to:

- Complete an interest assessment, then research and reflect on their career options
- Differentiate between hard skills and soft skills
- Recognize how different careers can be connected by similar skill sets



INTRO

PROMPT:

Use the space below to answer the prompt.

1. **Would you rather have a job you hate that pays \$120,000 or a job you love that pays \$40,000? Why?**



LEARN IT

DATA CRUNCH: [What Job Characteristics Matter Most to College Grads?](#)

Finding a “good job” might mean something different for different people. But there are some common characteristics of a “good job” to look out for. Follow the directions on the worksheet to complete this activity.

REFERENCE: [The Different Types of Work](#)

Let's review the different types of work before you get started planning your career. Read through the reference slides to learn common terms used to describe jobs. Then, answer the question.

1. **What type of work do you think you are currently most interested in? Why do you feel that way?**
 - a. Full-time or part-time?

- b. Paid or unpaid? If paid: hourly wage or salary? If unpaid: as a volunteer or intern?
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ARTICLE: [How to Choose a Career](#)

A career isn't just a single "good job" though; to set yourself up for success, it's helpful to figure out what *types* of jobs work best for you. Although choosing a career path can be daunting, read the article to learn what simple steps you can take to get started. Then, answer the questions.

- 1. Here are the 5 key steps outlined in the article. Circle the step that best reflects where you are in your process of choosing a career. What challenges have you faced in that process?**
 - a. Self-assessment
 - b. Explore your career options
 - c. Narrow down your list
 - d. Take your career for a test drive
 - e. Make a decision

 - 2. Based on the article, what factors should you consider when narrowing down your career choices?**

 - 3. What is the purpose of an informational interview?**
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EDPUZZLE: [Hard Skills vs. Soft Skills](#)

Now that you've explored your career path, let's look at the skills you'll need to develop to get there. Workplace skills are often divided into two categories - hard skills and soft skills. Watch this video and follow your teacher's directions to answer the questions either in your student activity packet or within the EdPuzzle itself.

NOTE: EdPuzzle videos shuffle answer choices and do not always match the order provided in the lesson here.

1. Which of the following options is an example of a HARD SKILL?

- a. Leadership
- b. Data analysis
- c. Adaptability
- d. Collaboration

2. Which description best defines SOFT SKILLS?

- a. Skills that an employee acquires only after staying at one job for longer than 6 months
- b. Interpersonal people skills that can be used in every job
- c. The ability to write a strong resume and cover letter
- d. Job-specific skills and knowledge required to perform a task

3. David wants to develop his soft skills. Which strategy would be most effective?

- a. Complete a certification for a new technical skill
- b. Research the job description for a position he wants to apply for and practice only the first two skills required
- c. Avoid situations that require working with other people
- d. Practice skills like active listening, creative thinking, and flexibility in the real world over time

4. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- a. Soft skills are mandatory for only customer service positions, while hard skills are mandatory for all other jobs
- b. You will only be hired if you demonstrate more soft skills than hard skills in your resume and interview
- c. It is important to have a balance of hard and soft skills in the workplace, so that your efforts are efficient and professional
- d. Most employers immediately hire candidates after assessing their hard skills through their degrees, training, and certifications

ARTICLE: [Transferable Skills Checklist](#)

Throughout your career, you will continue to develop skills that can be applied in multiple contexts. These are called “transferable skills” because you can bring them from one job to another. Transferable skills are important whether you’re looking for your first job, your next job, or a new career path! Skim the checklist and answer the questions.

1. What are 3-5 transferable skills that you already have?

- 2. Jacob works as a retail clerk and wants to make a career shift to work as a receptionist at a medical office. From the list below of his transferable skills, choose one that he might highlight in an interview. Make an inference: how might that skill apply to both Jacob's retail job and receptionist job?**

- Handling money and payment methods
 - Customer service
 - Multitasking
 - Reliable and punctual
 - Organization
 - Communication
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INFOGRAPHIC: [Grace's Path to Success](#)

As you finish high school, you'll be faced with many decisions about your career. Your skills, interests, and priorities will guide you through those decisions. Study the infographic to explore one example career path. Then, answer the questions.

- 1. Grace chooses the path that leads her to become a registered nurse (RN).**
 - a. What decisions does she make along the way?
 - b. Choose one of those decisions. What factor(s) might Grace have considered while making that decision?
- 2. Your friend Farhana looks at Grace's Path to Success and sighs heavily, saying "This just stresses me out even more. Once you pick a path, you're stuck with that career forever." Do you agree or disagree? Why?**



DO IT

ACTIVITY: INTERACTIVE: Which Jobs Align with My Interests?

Let's explore your career options! Interest assessments are a great way to learn about yourself and discover new possibilities, whether you have a clear vision toward a dream career or an undefined career path. Follow the directions on the worksheet to complete this activity.



EXIT TICKET

Follow your teacher's directions to complete the Exit Ticket.