



Reading 352

You are going to read six stories in which young adults talk about turning their hobbies into careers. For questions 1 — 15, choose from the stories (A — F). The stories may be chosen more than once.

In which story is the following mentioned?

- 1 the pleasure of teaching young people
- 2 valuable experience gained from voluntary work
- 3 a deeper insight into other people's work
- 4 neglecting a job
- 5 considering future prospects
- 6 the financial necessity for engaging in other ventures as well
- 7 encouragement from a family member
- 8 not being pushy with clients
- 9 finding an alternative leisure pursuit
- 10 the objective assessment of one's own abilities
- 11 misjudging the volume of desk work
- 12 making a snap decision
- 13 putting aside personal aspirations
- 14 a feeling of apprehension before making a major change
- 15 academic qualifications which were never used

(A) Alice

I had piano lessons when I was young, and I did have some talent. But it soon became obvious I'd never be good enough for a career on the concert stage. If I hadn't realized it that early, I probably would have carried on dreaming that my big break would come. As it is, I became a music teacher instead, and in my free time I started to dabble in the technical side of music production. After inheriting a share in my aunt's fortune, I could finally set up my own recording studio! I love my job so much that I used to work 24/7. And soon I understood I was getting burnt out — you need to switch off occasionally. My job has definitely added depth to the way I listen to music; now I can really understand why someone's using a certain technique or piece of equipment.

(B) Ben

I studied medicine, but when I finished medical school I had a sort of crisis. I suddenly knew I couldn't go on with it! But I was keen on amateur dramatics and I enjoyed putting on plays at the local youth centre, especially coaching budding actors. A friend suggested I should set up as a freelance teacher and offer acting lessons for children. It was tricky and at first I couldn't work out how to find customers. Surprisingly, soon enough I was contacted by a surprising number of interested people, and five years down the line I'm doing all right. The classes themselves aren't terribly lucrative, but I supplement my income by giving talks to amateur dramatics societies, contributing to magazines and organizing trips to see shows in London. It's not a bad life.

(C) Charles

When I left college, I started working in a bank, but my heart was never really in it. The problem was partly the environment: I don't like working in an office. I'm more of an outdoor person — and I'd always been crazy about surfing. Well, one summer while I was in Victoria on holiday, I got chatting to the owner of a surf shop. He said he wanted to sell up and I jumped at the chance to buy the business from him! It's incredibly difficult to set up a shop like that from scratch. Besides, being such an avid surfer myself, I assumed a lot of other people must share that interest — which isn't the case! Now that I've learnt the ropes, I'm thinking either of expanding — more shops, managers and so on — or diversifying, perhaps producing my own surf boards!

(D) David

I'd always been a serious amateur photographer, and when I left school I wanted a job that would allow me a lot of free time for my hobby. So I got a job as a waiter, working evenings only. Around that time I also offered to help my uncle out in his studio. He was a professional photographer, and I'd go along at the weekends and act as general unpaid dogsbody. I got an insight into the business, which made me wonder whether I too could earn a living from photography. However, after a while I realized it simply wasn't going to happen. So I swallowed my pride and got some work as a sales representative for one of the big camera manufacturers. I've noticed one odd thing: now that my hobby is my work, more or less, I've had to find another way to switch off. In fact, I've taken up fishing.

(E) Eleonore

My first job was with an insurance company, but I was hardly a model employee. I loathed my job, and instead of selling insurance, I used to wander around the city's numerous art galleries. And soon I picked up quite a lot of knowledge about contemporary art. One day I got talking to the manager of an art gallery. She suggested I apply for the job of a manager in an opening gallery. At first, I was doubtful, but I realized I had nothing to lose, so I applied and was asked to go for an interview. To my surprise, I impressed the owners! I've turned out to be quite a good saleswoman. When someone shows an interest in one of the works on show, I don't immediately start to persuade them to buy it. I just chat about the work and what makes it interesting to me. People feel reassured when they sense your enthusiasm.

(F) Freddie

I wanted to study graphic design when I left school, but I didn't have good enough grades to go on to art school. Instead, for the next ten years I worked as a car mechanic. But while I was working, I did some evening course in industrial design. I even built a bike — a four-wheel delivery bike — and the next thing I knew, my wife was urging me to set up my own company! I had to take a very deep breath before I finally took the plunge. I'd done my best to prepare for it, taking a course in business management in my spare time. And things were pretty tough for the first few years, although I never regretted it. Looking back, I can see that I underestimated the amount of paperwork I'd have to do. I thought I could just concentrate on the nice stuff — designing!

Key

(A) Alice

- 3 a deeper insight into other people's work
- 10 the objective assessment of one's own abilities

I had piano lessons when I was young, and I did have some talent. But **it soon became obvious I'd never be good enough for a career on the concert stage (10)**. If I hadn't realized it that early, I probably would have carried on dreaming that my big break would come. As it is, I became a music teacher instead, and in my free time I started to dabble in the technical side of music production. After inheriting a share in my aunt's fortune, I could finally set up my own recording studio! I love my job so much that I used to work 24/7. And soon I understood I was getting burnt out — you need to switch off occasionally. My job has definitely added depth to the way I listen to music; **now I can really understand why someone's using a certain technique or piece of equipment (3)**.

(B) Ben

- 1 the pleasure of teaching young people
- 6 the financial necessity for engaging in other ventures as well
- 15 academic qualifications which were never used

I studied medicine, but when I finished medical school I had a sort of crisis. I suddenly knew I couldn't go on with it (15)! But I was keen on amateur dramatics and **I enjoyed putting on plays at the local youth centre (1)**, especially coaching budding actors. A friend suggested I should set up as a freelance teacher and offer acting lessons for children. It was tricky and at first I couldn't work out how to find customers. Surprisingly, soon enough I was contacted by a surprising number of interested people, and five years down the line I'm doing all right. **The classes themselves aren't terribly lucrative, but I supplement my income by giving talks to amateur dramatics societies (6)**, contributing to magazines and organizing trips to see shows in London. It's not a bad life.

(C) Charles

- 5 considering future prospects
- 12 making a snap decision

When I left college, I started working in a bank, but my heart was never really in it. The problem was partly the environment: I don't like working in an office. I'm more of an outdoor person — and I'd always been crazy about surfing. Well, one summer while I was in Victoria on holiday, I got chatting to the owner of a surf shop. He said he wanted to sell up and **I jumped at the chance to buy the business from him (12)**! It's incredibly difficult to set up a shop like that from scratch. Besides, being such an avid surfer myself, I assumed a lot of other people must share that interest — which isn't the case! **Now that I've learnt the ropes, I'm thinking either of expanding (5)** — more shops, managers and so on — or diversifying, perhaps producing my own surf boards!

(D) David

- 2 valuable experience gained from voluntary work
- 9 finding an alternative leisure pursuit
- 13 putting aside personal aspirations

I'd always been a serious amateur photographer, and when I left school I wanted a job that would allow me a lot of free time for my hobby. So I got a job as a waiter, working evenings only. Around that time I also offered to help my uncle out in his studio. He was a professional photographer, and **I'd go along at the weekends and act as general unpaid dogsbody. I got an insight into the business (2)**, which made me wonder whether I too could earn a living from photography. However, after a while I realized it simply wasn't going to happen. So **I swallowed my pride and got some work as a sales representative (13)** for one of the big camera manufacturers. I've noticed one odd thing: now that my hobby is my work, more or less, I've had to find another way to switch off. **In fact, I've taken up fishing (9)**.

(E) Eleonore

- 4 neglecting a job

- 8 not being pushy with clients

My first job was with an insurance company, but I was hardly a model employee. I loathed my job, and **instead of selling insurance, I used to wander around the city's numerous art galleries (4)**. And soon I picked up quite a lot of knowledge about contemporary art. One day I got talking to the manager of an art gallery. She suggested I apply for the job of a manager in an opening gallery. At first, I was doubtful, but I realized I had nothing to lose, so I applied and was asked to go for an interview. To my surprise, I impressed the owners! I've turned out to be quite a good saleswoman. When someone shows an interest in one of the works on show, **I don't immediately start to persuade them to buy it (8)**. I just chat about the work and what makes it interesting to me. People feel reassured when they sense your enthusiasm.

(F) Freddie

- 7 encouragement from a family member
- 11 misjudging the volume of desk work
- 14 a feeling of apprehension before making a major change

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