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## Talents and Hobbies



ENG ▶

“I knew that there were other things that I was good at, other than just doing a job, so I wanted to follow my passion, so I decided to go to school for fashion design.”

—CASEY

Deciding on the right career path can be an intimidating experience if you feel clueless about what you want to do or have doubts about following your dreams.

There might be hobbies you enjoy and skills that come naturally to you. But will doing what you like or what you're good at lead to your dream job? It could!

ENG ▶

### Objectives

- Learn how to combine your talents and strengths to help you find careers that suit you.
- Write about how you will apply your skills, knowledge, strengths, and talents to the career that's right for you. [ENG ▶](#)

There are no key terms for this lesson. [ENG ▶](#)

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## Make What You Like What You Do

**If you had to choose between a career you are absolutely passionate about but doesn't pay very well and one that pays a lot but makes you feel miserable, which one would you choose?**

- A career I love that pays less
- A career I hate that pays more

Submit Vote

Choosing which career to pursue should be one of the biggest decisions you make in life. After all, over the course of your life you will spend, on average, three times longer as a professional than you will as a student. If you are not happy with what you do, no amount of money will compensate for the emotional distress your job might cause.

That is why it is important to make what you like what you do. In this activity you will meet Zorica, a bright young high school student who is contemplating what she wants to do with her life. Learn what she does to find a career that best suits her. [ENG ▶](#)



*Print your study sheet before moving on. Use the study sheet to take notes and practice what you will learn in this study. Keep all your study sheets together and use them to review before quizzes and tests.* [ENG ▶](#)



[click](#) for your study sheet.

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## What Constitutes a Fulfilling Career?

First, Zorica thinks about what she expects from her career. She wants it to be fulfilling, but what exactly does that mean?

She makes a list of certain basic requirements that any career she pursues must have in order for her to enjoy it. It must:

- Be interesting enough to remain motivating
- Provide opportunities to learn and grow
- Be challenging enough to engage but not overwhelm her

In addition, she knows that the jobs she pursues during her career should ideally have:

- A respectful and cooperative boss
- A reasonable commute
- A decent salary with benefits
- A work schedule that does not require her to put in overtime hours on a regular basis [ENG](#)



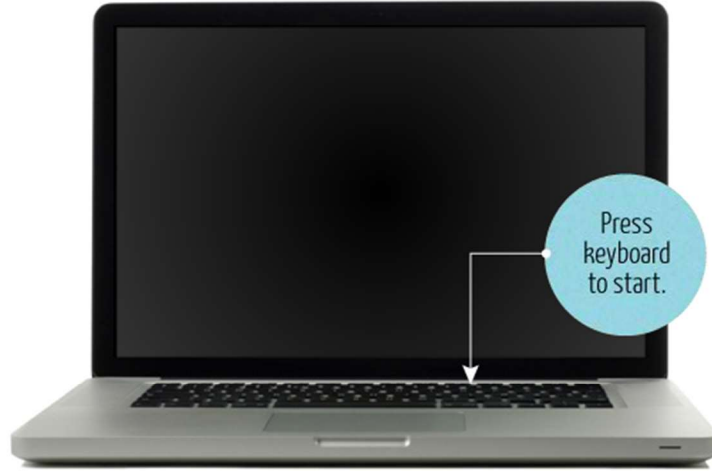
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## What Do You Enjoy?

Once Zorica has the basic career requirements, she makes a list of what she enjoys. She asks herself two basic questions. She writes whatever comes to mind, regardless of how silly it might seem.

Find out what she writes. [ENG ▶](#)



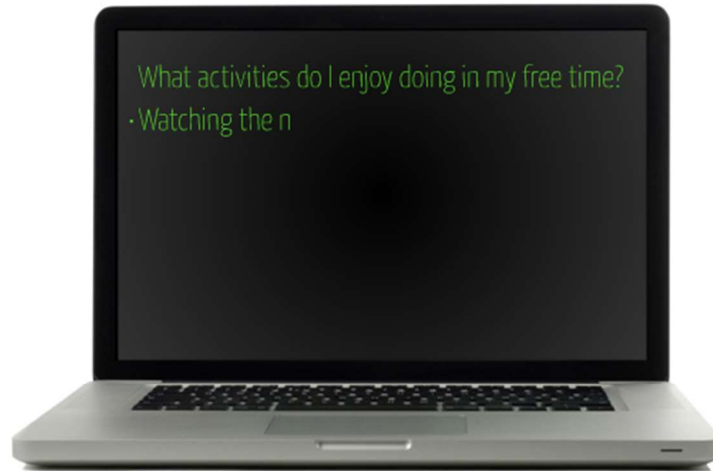
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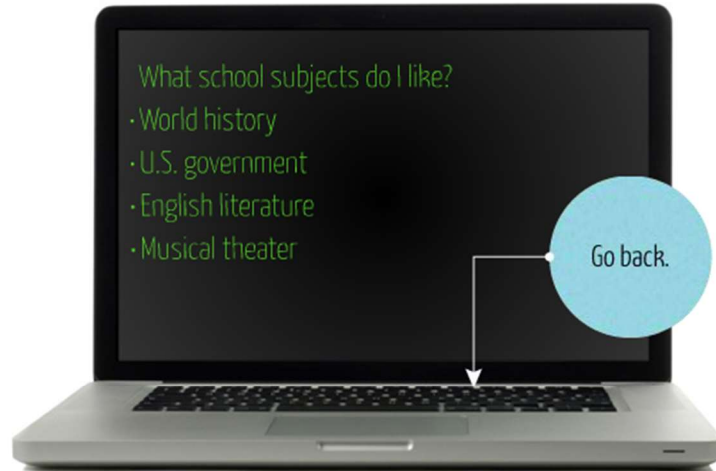
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## What Are You Good At?

Part of enjoying your career is knowing that you are good at it, so making a list of things you do well should help you narrow your career choices. The key is to be realistic about your skills. Think of things you do well enough to turn into a career.

For example, Zorica has been playing soccer since she was seven. Over the years she has really improved her ability. But although Zorica has entertained the idea of soccer stardom, she knows her skills are not good enough for her to make a career out of it. Nor will her karaoke skills turn her into a professional singer, for that matter.

She is, however, one of the best debaters on her school's team. And her teachers always give her positive feedback on class presentations. [ENG](#) ▶





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## How Do You Determine What You Do Well?

The following questions will help you decide what career-worthy abilities you possess.

- What abilities come naturally to you?
- What skills do you have that others say you do well?
- What activities or subjects do you learn quickly? [ENG](#) ▶

**Is there something you know you do well enough that could eventually turn into a career?**

- Yes
- No
- I don't know.

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## Where Will Your Skills Be Valued?

By combining what you enjoy doing and what you are good at, you will be able to start researching career paths. As you look at your lists, highlight skills and interests that could be of value in one career.

Let's combine Zorica's lists: [ENG](#)

Zorica combines her lists of what she enjoys and what she is good at:



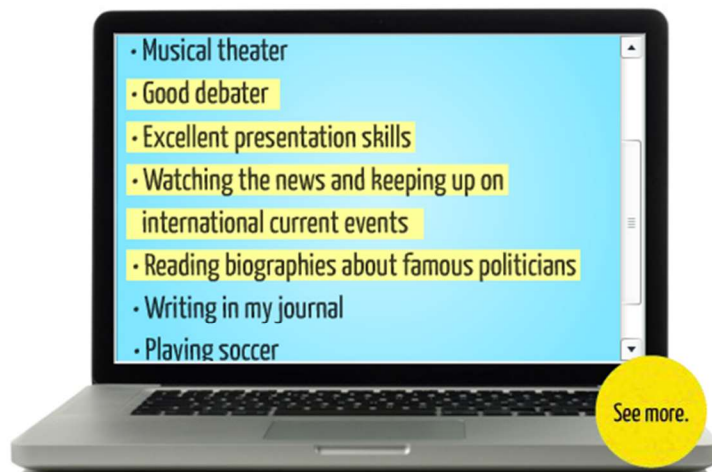
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Let's combine Zorica's lists: [ENG](#)

Then she highlights what she could combine into a career.



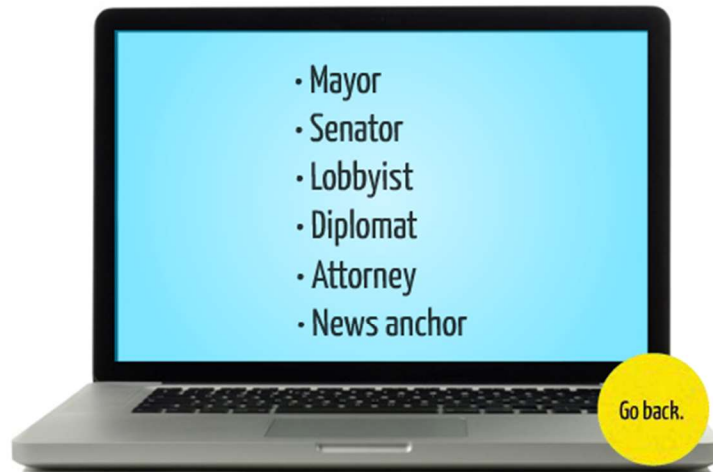
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Let's combine Zorica's lists: [ENG ▶](#)

Finally she makes a list of careers that suit these traits:



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## Factors That Contribute to Poor Career Choices

Just because people know what they like to do and what their strengths are doesn't necessarily mean they choose the right career path. There are many factors that might lead people to choose a career for the wrong reasons.

Take a look at some of the factors:

- Making a strictly money-driven decision
- Being afraid to take risks
- Being unaware of abilities or passions
- Being easily swayed by what others think is best for them
- Blindly following in a parent's footsteps
- Lacking drive; taking the easiest path

Working under these circumstances might be O.K. for a short time, but if they are the only deciding factors in choosing a lifelong career, they could cause someone to have a very unhappy professional life. [ENG ▶](#)



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## Commit to Your Path



Zorica likes the career choices she has come up with. But she still has a lot of research to do before she makes a final decision about which path to choose.

She makes an action plan:

- Talk to my school guidance counselor about the type of education I should pursue after high school.
- Get involved in government-related school activities, such as Model UN.
- Take a few career assessments.
- Search for volunteer or internship possibilities in my local government or at a news station.
- Research broadcasting and government careers.

Zorica knows the path to attain her dream job might be a long one. She also knows there will be temptations along the way that might make her doubt her decisions. But she is ultimately committed to pursuing a career that fulfills her!

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## Tools to Help You

Interested in starting your career research now? Check out these websites to get you started. [ENG ▶](#)

Career Assessments:

- [Free Career Tests, Personality Assessments, Job Advice, and Resources](#)
- [Job Quiz by My Career Quizzes.com](#)
- [Skills Assessment](#)

View information on career clusters:

- [Career Cluster Occupations](#)