

Parents struggle to keep up with children's career options

Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate

1 Warmer

a. Which of these jobs is most important for society? Put them in order from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important).

- web designer
- teacher
- rubbish collector
- astronaut
- town planner
- doctor

2 Key words

a. Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text.

career

consultant

identify

rapidly

streamer

1. A _____ is a job or a profession that you spend a lot of your working life in.
2. If something happens _____, it happens very quickly.
3. If you _____ something, you recognize it and understand exactly what it is.
4. A _____ is an expert whose job is to give help and advice on a particular subject.
5. A _____ is a person who broadcasts himself or herself online through a live stream or a video they have recorded.

Parents struggle to keep up with children's career options

Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate

algorithm

asteroid

donation

mining

viewer

6. A _____ is money you give to an organization, especially one that helps people.
7. A _____ is someone who watches TV programmes, films, or online videos.
8. An _____ is a set of rules that a computer uses to solve problems or do calculations.
9. An _____ is a large rock that moves around in space.
10. _____ is when you dig gold, silver, etc., from the ground.

'How is that a real job?' Parents struggle to keep up with children's career options

Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate

Amelia Hill

19 May, 2022

- 1 When Leon Martin asked for his parents' advice on how to become a UX designer, they were confused. "I didn't know what he was talking about," said Anne, his mother. "I didn't know whether he was talking about clothes, computer programs or mountain bikes." When 18-year-old Leon explained that the job was connected with online design, his mother was still confused.
- 2 Anne isn't alone. Research shows that more than two-thirds of parents of 11- to 18-year-olds in England know nothing about the careers their children are interested in.
- 3 Bryony Mathew, a scientist, said the world was changing so rapidly that parents should not try to identify specific careers for their children. "Children in primary school today will one day have careers that don't yet exist," she said. "This means that parents should encourage their children to learn a wide mixture of art, science and computing, so that they can find or create their own careers. Parents can't possibly teach a child what their career is in such a fast-moving world; the young person has to discover that themselves."
- 4 Shamajul Motin, an educational consultant, said parents did not understand their children's career choices. "For example, a lot of young people want to be streamers, and the parents say: 'How are they going to make money playing computer games all day?'" he said. "But they don't realize that the child can make a lot of money from doing exactly that. The world of work has changed."

Futuristic careers

5 UX designer

User experience design is the creation of designs for products or websites. Senior UX designers and consultants can earn £65,000 a year or more.

6 Twitch streamer

Live streaming technology lets you watch, create and share videos in real time. A streamer plays video games live for an audience and makes money through donations from viewers and advertising. An expert streamer can make up to £350,000 a year.

7 Machine learning engineer

Machine learning engineers use complex algorithms to programme machines (such as a self-driving car or digital voice assistant) to do tasks like a human. The average salary for a machine learning engineer in the UK is £52,000.

8 Asteroid miner

Asteroids and small planets have important materials such as gold, silver and platinum. Asteroid mining will extract these minerals and bring them back to Earth. This job doesn't exist ... yet.

© Guardian News and Media 2022

First published in *The Guardian*, 19/05/2022

Parents struggle to keep up with children's career options

Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate

3 Comprehension check

a. Answer the questions using information from the article.

1. What job does Leon Martin want to do?
2. How did his mother feel when he asked her about it?
3. What is Bryony Mathew's job?
4. What does she think children should do at school?
5. What is Shamajul Motin's job?
6. How much money can a UX designer make?
7. How much money can an expert streamer make?
8. What do machine learning engineers do?
9. What do asteroids and small planets have on them?
10. When will asteroid mining start?

4 Key language

a. Match the verbs in the left-hand column with the nouns or noun phrases in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| 1. ask for | a. video games |
| 2. create | b. tasks |
| 3. play | c. minerals |
| 4. do | d. advice |
| 5. extract | e. money |
| 6. make | f. designs |

Parents struggle to keep up with children's career options

Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate

5 Discussion

- a. Do you agree with this statement. Why? Why not?
- “Free time is more important than work.”

6 In your own words

- a. What is your ideal job? Give reasons for your choice.
- b. Share your ideas with the class.