

Why you will fail to have a great career

by Larry Smith

WARM-UP

1. Cross out one word that doesn't collocate with the word *career* in each line. Discuss the meaning of the others:

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|-----------|---------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------------|--------|
| a) | brief | promising | successful | great | sophisticated | CAREER |
| b) | build | create | pursue | have | resume | CAREER |
| c) CAREER | break | advice | path | route | structure | |
| d) | peak of | change of | span of | embark on | set off | CAREER |
| e) CAREER | chances | opportunities | ladder | expansion | advancement | |

2. Discuss these questions in pairs (use the vocabulary from ex. 1):

- Should people know where they want to be in their career in 5-10 years' time?
- Do you have a clear vision and ultimate goal for your career?
- What can you do to advance your career?
- What's the best and the worst time to have a change of career?
- Is a career break a good idea? Why/why not?



3. What is a *great career* for you? Rank the following aspects in order of their importance for a great career (1- most important, 8 – least important). Compare it with your partner:

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • doing something you are passionate about • having a big paycheck • being in a position of power • making a positive difference | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • having a work-life balance • having an intellectually stimulating and challenging job • being able to constantly develop yourself • being respected and well-known |
|---|---|

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VOCABULARY FROM THE TED TALK:

4. Match the words/phrases in column A with their definitions from column B

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|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to the contrary 2. enumerate 3. encounter 4. pursue 5. sacrifice 6. weird 7. talk yourself into sth | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. to follow a course of activity; to engage in B. unusual or strange C. convince oneself to do sth D. making you think that the opposite may be true E. meet sb or sth (usually not on purpose) F. to specify one after another; to list G. the act of giving up sth that you want to keep especially in order to get or do sth else or to help sb |
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5. Try to write one long, complex sentence that will include as many words/phrases from above as possible. The sentence has to make sense!

VIDEO & DISCUSSION

6. Discuss the following questions:

1. How would you differentiate passion from interest?
2. What kind of excuses do people find not to pursue their passions?
3. Does a great career mean doing something you are passionate about? Why/Why not?
4. Would you agree with the speaker that working hard will not lead to a great career?
5. Should each of us strive to have a great career or is it not important to the majority?
6. Do you agree that many people decide to forget about their dreams because they want to have a family/friends/partners?

