

# *Choosing a Career*

Number in order the five most important factors for you in choosing a career (1 = most important, 2 = second, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ good salary

\_\_\_\_\_ challenge / always different / excitement

\_\_\_\_\_ use technology (computers)

\_\_\_\_\_ recognition / be well-known for my work

\_\_\_\_\_ use the skills / abilities I have

\_\_\_\_\_ chance to learn new things

\_\_\_\_\_ opportunities for travel

\_\_\_\_\_ routine / always the same

\_\_\_\_\_ possibility for advancement (promotion, higher position)

\_\_\_\_\_ good hours/ flexible schedule

\_\_\_\_\_ independence (autonomy)

\_\_\_\_\_ personal satisfaction

\_\_\_\_\_ respected career / status / prestige

*Now tell your classmates your top three factors and explain.*

## **Conversation.**

1. Tell about a job you have had that you liked. Why did you like it?
2. Tell about a job that you have had that you didn't like. Why didn't you like it?
3. Is it important to have a job that you like? Why or why not?
4. What is the best job you can think of? Why?
5. What is the worst job? Why?
6. What is the hardest job? Why?
7. What are some jobs that are not really "work"? Explain.
8. What job would you like to have in the future?
9. What is your ideal job and why?
10. What is more important: having a job you like or making a lot of money? Explain.

## Vocabulary. Here are some words and phrases you will hear and their definitions.

- Brush aside = disregard, ignore, not pay attention
- End up = finish
- Endorsement = approval
- Entrepreneur = businessperson
- Fad = trend, fashion
- Keep at (something) = persist with, continue to do something, persevere
- Land a maneuver = to do a trick, stunt successfully
- Make a living = do a job and get paid for it
- Master = become skilled at something
- PTA meeting = school meeting of teachers and parents (Parent-Teachers Association)
- Pursuit = the effort made to try to achieve or obtain something over a period of time
- Raise eyebrows = to question or ridicule something because you don't accept it
- Scrape together money = gather what little money you have
- Stereotype = an oversimplified standardized image of a person or group
- Tagged = labeled

## Do What You Love

*All Things Considered*, July 24, 2006

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5568583>

by Tony Hawk

Tony Hawk got his first skateboard when he was 9 years old.

Five years later, he turned pro. Hawk's autobiography and video games have been best sellers, while his foundation has funded skate-park construction in low-income communities across America.



*"Although I have many job titles -- CEO, Executive Producer, Senior Consultant, Foundation Chairman, Bad Actor -- the one I am most proud of is 'Professional Skateboarder.'"*

**Listen for main ideas. Put a check ✓ in front of sentences that express the major ideas. Put an X in front of sentences that are not major ideas.**

- \_\_\_ 1. Skateboarding can make you famous.
- \_\_\_ 2. Being well-known and getting paid well are not as important as having a career you like.
- \_\_\_ 3. He has been a professional skateboarder for a long time.
- \_\_\_ 4. Skateboarding is a passion he turned into a career.
- \_\_\_ 5. He is proud of his career even though other people may not respect or support his career choice.
- \_\_\_ 6. It's easy to be a professional skater.

**Listen for details. Write short answers to the following questions,**

1. For how long has Tony Hawke been a professional skateboarder?
2. At what age did he become a professional skateboarder?
3. Did he get support for his career choice?
4. Do all people accept professional skateboarding as a career? Why or why not?
5. How old is Tony now?
6. What is his family life like?
7. What other jobs has he had?
8. What did Tony's son tell his class about his father's job?
9. What is the lesson he wants to pass on to his children?
10. Why is there a lot of pressure on Tony's son?

**Listen to fill in the missing words.**

I believe that people \_\_\_\_\_ take pride in what they do, even if it is **scorned** or misunderstood by the public at large.

I have been a professional skateboarder for 24 years. For much of that time, the activity that paid my rent and gave me my \_\_\_\_\_ joy was tagged with many labels, most of which were ugly. It was a kids' fad, a waste of time, a dangerous pursuit, a \_\_\_\_\_.

When I was about 17, three years after I turned pro, my high school "careers" teacher scolded me in front of the \_\_\_\_\_ class about jumping ahead in my workbook. He told me that I would never make it in the \_\_\_\_\_ if I didn't follow directions **explicitly**. He said I'd never make a living as a skateboarder, so it seemed to *him* that my \_\_\_\_\_ was **bleak**.

Even during those dark years, I never stopped riding my skateboard and never stopped \_\_\_\_\_ as a skater. There have been many, many times when I've been \_\_\_\_\_ because I can't land a maneuver. I've come to realize that the only way to master something is to keep it at -- despite the bloody knees, despite the twisted ankles, despite the **mocking** \_\_\_\_\_.

Skateboarding has gained **mainstream** recognition in recent years, but it still has \_\_\_\_\_ stereotypes. The pro skaters I know are responsible \_\_\_\_\_ of society. Many of them are fathers, homeowners, world travelers and successful entrepreneurs. Their hairdos and tattoos are simply part of our \_\_\_\_\_, even when they raise eyebrows during PTA meetings.

So here I am, 38 years old, a husband and father of three, with a **lengthy** list of \_\_\_\_\_ and obligations. And although I have many job titles -- CEO, Executive Producer, Senior Consultant, Foundation Chairman, Bad Actor -- the one I am \_\_\_\_\_ proud of is "Professional Skateboarder." It's the one I write on surveys and customs forms, even though I often end up in a secondary \_\_\_\_\_ checkpoint.

My \_\_\_\_\_ son's pre-school class was recently asked what their dads do for work. The \_\_\_\_\_ were things like, "My dad sells money" and "My dad figures stuff out." My son said, "I've never seen my dad do work."

It's \_\_\_\_\_. Skateboarding doesn't seem like real work, but I'm proud of what I do. My parents never once questioned the **practicality** behind my \_\_\_\_\_, even when I had to scrape together gas money and regarded dinner at Taco Bell as a big night out.

I hope to pass on the same \_\_\_\_\_ to my children someday. Find the thing you love. My oldest son is an **avid** skater and he's really **gifted** for a 13-year-old, but there's a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ on him. He used to skate for endorsements, but now he brushes all that stuff aside. He just skates for \_\_\_\_\_ and that's good enough for me.

You might not make it to the \_\_\_\_\_, but if you are doing what you love, there is much more happiness there than being \_\_\_\_\_ or famous.

**Vocabulary. Choose the word that is a synonym (means the same).**

1. Scorned (paragraph 1):    A. accepted                    B. rejected
2. Explicitly (paragph 3):    A. clearly                        B. confusing
3. Bleak (paragraph 3):      A. bright                         B. dark
4. Mocking (paragraph 4):    A. respectful                    B. disrespectful
5. Mainstream (paragph 5)    A. normal                        B. unconventional
6. Lengthy (paragraph 6)     A. short                         B. extensive
7. Practicality (paragraph 8)    A. realism                        B. fantasy
8. Avid (paragraph 9)         A. bored                         B. devoted
9. Gifted (paragraph 9)        A. talented                      B. unskilled

**Discuss: What is Tony's advice? Do you think it is good advice? Why or why not?**