



Australian Government



Places I like to work

It's useful to get an idea of the kind of place you would like to work in. This can help you choose a career you are well suited to, and help you find a work environment that you can succeed in.

If you don't have strong preferences for a particular type of work environment, you can be flexible about the places you work and open to the opportunities available.

This workbook includes some simple questions to help you think about the work places you prefer.



2. Some people are energised by a lively workplace and prefer to work in an environment with some noise. Other people work best in quiet places. What level of noise can you work with?

Select the response that suits you best from the following three options:

Low noise level	Mixed noise level	Medium noise level
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If you answered **'low noise level'**, you are probably best suited to a career where you can work on your own and easily control the noise levels in your environment. Almost all occupations, however, will be exposed to some noise.

If you answered **'medium noise level'**, you may like the stimulation of working in a busy environment with other people.

Tip: Your safety in the workplace is protected under law. A responsible employer will never ask you to work in an environment that exposes you to damaging levels of noise. If you need to work in a very noisy work environment you should be provided with protective equipment.

Some occupations and industries that may suit you, depending on your answer:

Low noise level

Occupations:

- Physiotherapist
- Personal Assistant
- Florist
- Signwriter
- Painter

Industries:

- Health Services
- Administrative and Support Services
- Arts and Recreation

Mix noise level

Occupations:

- Receptionist
- School Teacher
- Childcare Worker
- Fitness Instructor
- Plumber

Industries:

- Education
- Administrative and Support

Medium noise level

Occupations:

- Chef
- Bar Attendant
- Boilermaker
- Abattoir Worker
- Motor mechanic

Industries:

- Construction
- Food Services
- Agriculture



3. Some people do their best work when they are following detailed instructions provided by their employer. Other people do their best work when they work independently and find their own way to complete tasks. What do you prefer?

Select the response that suits you best from the following three options:

Follow instructions	Mixed	Figure it out myself
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If you answered **'follow instructions'**, you may prefer a highly organised workplace with clearly defined procedures and clear expectations from your employer.

If you answered **'mixed'**, you may prefer getting instructions and following procedures when you need to, but you also like working by yourself. Your ability to do both these things will be valued by those employers who want their staff to show initiative and solve problems they haven't encountered before.

If you answered **'figure it out myself'**, you may be best suited to a job in which you can work independently and use your problem-solving skills to complete your work tasks. Employers who send workers out into the field to work by themselves rely on their staff's ability to manage themselves and stay motivated to complete required tasks. However, regardless of how strong your preference to work independently is, you can make yourself more employable by developing your ability to follow your employer's processes and procedures. If you choose to start your own business, you will also need to understand financial processes and procedures and other business practices.

Some occupations that may suit you, depending on your answer:

Follow procedures	Mixed	Figure it out myself
<p>Occupations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kitchenhand Call Centre Worker Bookkeeper Factory Worker Electrician Housekeeper Safety Inspector 	<p>Occupations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receptionist School Teacher Enrolled Nurse Account Manager Graphic Designer Aged and Disability Carer Paramedic Police Officer 	<p>Occupations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Maintenance Worker Author Private Investigator Fitness Instructor Solicitor Financial Broker



4. Some people enjoy working at a fast pace. Others are more productive when they work at a steady pace of work. What pace do you like to work at?

Select the response that suits you best from the following three options:

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Fast pace	Mixed	Steady pace
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If you answered **'fast pace'**, you may enjoy working in a busy environment. You can use this preference to your advantage in the world of work, by completing your assigned tasks quickly and by stepping in to fill in for other team members (when needed) to get a job done.

Most businesses will have peak periods of activity. In Tourism, Hospitality and Retail, for example, this corresponds to holiday periods; for the financial services industry it can correspond to the end of financial year. As long as you can pick up the pace of work and sustain it over a period of hours or days, you will be employable in a broad range of industries.

If you answered **'steady pace'**, there are several options that might suit you. You may be well suited to work environments with a steady flow of repetitive tasks, such as processing paperwork or enquiries, or paying invoices. Alternatively, you may be suited to work that gives you more independence and flexibility to perform tasks over a longer timeframe – this might involve more open-ended tasks such as researching, writing and formulating business advice.

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Some occupations and industries that may suit you, depending on your answer:

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Fast pace

Occupations:

- Fast Food Cooks
- Deck and Fishing Hand
- Courier
- Chef
- Call Centre Worker
- Factory Worker

Industries:

- Food Services
- Manufacturing

Mixed

Occupations:

- Hairdresser
- Midwife and Enrolled Nurse
- Service Station Attendant
- Waiter
- Retail Assistant
- School Teacher

Industries:

- Retail
- Health
- Hospitality

Steady pace

Occupations:

- Bank Worker
- Researcher
- Librarian

Industries:

- Administrative and Support Services
- Education



5. Some jobs need physical strength or skill to complete some tasks (such as lifting, operating, moving, cutting and serving). Do you like tasks that involve physical strength?

Select the response that suits you best from the following three options:

Mostly physical work

Some physical work

Limited physical work

If you answered '**mostly physical work**', you may be confident in your ability to apply your physical skill or strength to complete a broad range of technical tasks. You will be well suited to work environments that require you to use your physical abilities for long periods of time, or in jobs where your physical skill or strength is needed to perform the duties of the occupation.

If you answered '**limited physical work**', there are many opportunities available to you, but you may need to think carefully about choosing a job that makes the most of the physical abilities you do have. Many jobs need some physical ability and stamina to meet deadlines. By understanding your limitations and highlighting the abilities you do have, you will be able to find a job that is rewarding and in which you can be fully productive.

Some occupations and industries that may suit you, depending on your answer:

Mostly physical work

Occupations:

Paramedic
Scaffolder
Hairdresser
Cleaner
Occupational Therapist
Bricklayer
Landscape

Industries:

Health
Construction

Some physical work

Occupations:

Retail Assistant
School Teacher
Truck Driver
Allied Health Worker
Veterinarian Nurse

Industries:

Education
Retail
Health

Limited physical work

Occupations:

Software Programmer
Personal Assistant
Call Centre Worker
Office Manager
Checkout Operators
Laboratory Assistant

Industries:

Information Services
Administrative and Support Services
Retail



6. Some jobs need constant interaction with other people (such as clients and colleagues), whereas other jobs only need limited interaction with other people. How much do you like working with other people?

Select the response that suits you best from the following three options:

I prefer to work with people most of the time

I prefer to work with people some of the time

I prefer to work alone

If you answered 'I prefer to work with people most of the time' and have well developed communication skills, like working in a team and embrace diversity, you will have the skills required for many occupations across a variety of industries.

Many jobs need some people skills, so that you can communicate with service providers, clients or colleagues when you need to.

Some occupations and industries that may suit you, depending on your answer:

A lot of contact with people

Occupations:

Waiter
Midwife and Nurse
Tour Bus Driver
Childcare Worker
Police Officer
School Teacher

Industries:

Hospitality
Education
Health

Some contact with people

Occupations:

Administrative Assistant
Accountant
Architect
Crop Farm Worker

Industries:

Agriculture
Administrative and Support Service

Limited contact with people

Occupations:

Farm Manager
Artist
Author
Truck Driver
Courier
Crane Operator
Laboratory Scientist

Industries:

Agriculture
Arts
Transport
Research



Try another way of thinking about your preferences for places you'd like to work, by completing this table:

Location	Outside	Mixed	Inside
Noise	Medium noise levels	Mixed noise levels	Low noise levels
Organisation	Follow procedures	Mixed	Figure it out myself
Pace	Fast pace	Mixed pace	Steady pace
Physical	Mostly physical work	Some physical work	Limited physical work
People	I like working with people a lot	I like working with people most of the time	I don't really like working with people

Now use your answers above to finish the sentences below.

I like to work in a location that is:

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I like noise levels that are:

.....

I like organisations that:

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I like the pace of work to be:

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Physical work is something I:

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Working with people is something I:

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