



Australian Government
Department of Employment



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 forge a successful career by being flexible about the places you work and open to the opportunities available.

This workbook includes some basic introductory career interest questions to help you think about the work place types you prefer.



Places I like to work

Answer the following questions by selecting the working environment you prefer.

1. Some jobs require you to work outside a lot of the time, others require inside work or a mixture of the two. Where do you work best?

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

Inside

Mixed

Outside

If you answered 'inside', you might like a variety of workplaces, including offices, warehouses, shops, hospitals, laboratories, workshops and classrooms.

There are many jobs that are 'outside' jobs. However, most jobs also require some ability to work inside, such as completing or lodging paperwork for processing.

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

Inside

Occupations:

Medical Practitioner
Solicitor
Receptionist
Retail Assistant
Housekeeper
ICT Technician
Lecturer

Industries:

Health Services
Retail
Education

Mixed

Occupations:

Architect
Real Estate Agent
Farm Manager
Taxi Driver
Electrician
Carpenter

Industries:

Transport
Agriculture
Construction

Outside

Occupations:

Bricklayer
Landscaper
Greenkeeper
Parks and Wildlife Ranger
Parking Inspector

Industries:

Construction
Agriculture



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

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 procedures Mixed Figure it out myself

.....

If you answered ‘follow procedures’, 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.

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

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Follow procedures

Occupations:

- Kitchenhand
- Call Centre Worker
- Bookkeeper
- Factory Worker
- Electrician
- Housekeeper
- Safety Inspector

Mixed

Occupations:

- Receptionist
- School Teacher
- Enrolled Nurse
- Account Manager
- Graphic Designer
- Aged and Disability Carer
- Paramedic
- Police Officer

Figure it out myself

Occupations:

- 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:

Fast pace

Mixed pace

Steady pace

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.

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

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
Transport

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 embracing 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Outside	<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed	<input type="checkbox"/> Inside
Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium noise levels	<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed noise levels	<input type="checkbox"/> Low noise levels
Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/> Follow procedures	<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed	<input type="checkbox"/> Figure it out myself
Pace	<input type="checkbox"/> Fast pace	<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed pace	<input type="checkbox"/> Steady pace
Physical	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly physical work	<input type="checkbox"/> Some physical work	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited physical work
People	<input type="checkbox"/> I prefer to work with people most of the time	<input type="checkbox"/> I prefer to work with people some of the time	<input type="checkbox"/> I prefer to work alone

Now use your answers above to finish the sentences below.

I like to work in a location that is:

I like noise levels that are:

I like organisations that:

I like the pace of work to be:

Physical work is something I:

Working with people is something I: