

A2 TEENS · GRAMMAR · LESSON 37

What Do You Want to Be?

“I **want to** be a pilot.” “I’d **like to** work with animals.” “I **don’t want to** sit in an office all day.”
When we talk about jobs and dream careers, we use **want to + verb** and **would like to + verb**.
Let’s find out what you want to be!

■ 45 min · ✓ CEFR A2 · ■ Want to + Verb · ■ Jobs & Careers

01

WARM-UP

Dream job brainstorm

Think about the jobs you see around you...

Answer in full sentences. Don’t worry about grammar yet — just say what you think!

- 01 What jobs do your parents or family members do? Do you think those jobs are fun?
- 02 If you could do ANY job for one day, what would it be?
- 03 Do you know someone with a really cool job? What do they do?
- 04 What job would you NEVER want to do? Why not?

02

GRAMMAR FOCUS

want to + verb and would like to + verb

want to + verb — saying what you want

Use **want to** + the base form of the verb. It’s direct and casual — perfect for talking with friends and family.

POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	QUESTION
I want to be a doctor.	I don’t want to work at night.	Do you want to be a teacher?
She wants to help people.	He doesn’t want to sit in an office.	Does she want to travel?
We want to learn new skills.	They don’t want to wear a uniform.	What do you want to be?

would like to + verb — the polite version

Use **would like to** (or the short form **’d like to**) + base verb. It’s more polite — great for interviews, talking to adults, or formal situations.

POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	QUESTION
I’d like to be an engineer.	I wouldn’t like to work outside.	Would you like to be a chef?

She'd like to study medicine.	He wouldn't like to wake up early.	What would you like to do?
We'd like to work with children.	They wouldn't like to travel alone.	Would she like to try it?

■ When do I use which?

WANT TO	WOULD LIKE TO
Direct and casual	Polite and formal
With friends and family	With teachers, adults, strangers
I want to be a vet.	I'd like to be a vet.
What do you want to do?	What would you like to do?
<i>Both are correct! "want to" is just more casual.</i>	

03

KEY VOCABULARY

Words for jobs and careers

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE
career noun	the type of work you do for most of your life	<i>She wants a career in medicine.</i>
salary noun	the money you get paid for your job (usually per month)	<i>A pilot's salary is usually high.</i>
skill noun	something you can do well because you learned it	<i>Coding is a useful skill.</i>
goal noun	something you want to achieve in the future	<i>My goal is to become an architect.</i>
creative adjective	good at making new things or having ideas	<i>Designers need to be creative.</i>
patient adjective	able to wait calmly without getting angry	<i>Teachers must be very patient.</i>
brave adjective	not afraid of dangerous or difficult situations	<i>Firefighters are incredibly brave.</i>
responsible adjective	you can be trusted to do the right thing	<i>A nurse must be responsible.</i>
dream job noun	the perfect job you really want to have	<i>Being a pilot is my dream job.</i>

experience noun	knowledge from doing something before	<i>She has experience working with children.</i>
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04

READING

Four teens, four dream careers

TRUE STORIES · ISSUE 37

Dream Careers

The jobs these teens want — and why they believe in them

We asked four teenagers: “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Their answers show confidence, curiosity, and lots of **want to** and **would like to**. Read carefully: every bolded phrase uses the target grammar.

LUCAS, 15, BRAZIL

Confidence level: 9/10

“I **want to be** a game designer. I play video games every day, but I **don’t want to** just play them — I **want to make** them. I **’d like to study** computer science at university. My parents say it’s not a real job, but I think it is. I already **want to learn** coding. My **goal** is to create a game that millions of people play. I know I need to be **creative** and **patient** — making a game takes years!”

SEO-YEON, 16, SOUTH KOREA

Confidence level: 8/10

“I **’d like to be** a vet because I love animals. I have two cats and a dog. My mum says I need to study very hard because vet school is difficult. I **want to work** in a small animal clinic, not a big hospital. I **wouldn’t like to work** on a farm — I prefer city life. I **’d like to help** animals who are sick or hurt. I think you need to be **patient** and **brave** to be a good vet.”

CHIDI, 14, NIGERIA

Confidence level: 10/10

“I **want to be** a pilot! I **’d like to fly** big planes across the world. My uncle is a pilot and he tells me amazing stories. I **don’t want to** work in an office — I **want to** see new countries every week. **Would I like to be** a captain? Yes! I **’d like to be** a captain by the time I’m 35. You need to be **responsible** and **brave** because hundreds of people trust you.”

LENA, 13, GERMANY

Confidence level: 7/10

“I’m not 100% sure yet, but I **’d like to be** an architect. I love drawing buildings and I **want to design** houses that are beautiful and good for the planet. I **don’t want to** build boring grey boxes! I **’d like to study** in Berlin or Vienna. I know I need **experience** and good maths **skills**. My **dream job** is to design a museum one day.”

The lesson: Notice how every teen uses **want to + verb** for direct statements and **’d like to + verb** for polite or dream-like wishes. Negative forms (**don’t want to**, **wouldn’t like to**) show what they

DON'T want. Question forms (**Do you want to...? Would you like to...?**) help start conversations about the future. Now you try!

05

PRACTICE

Choose the right form

★ Each question shows a sentence. Choose the correct form. The hint tag tells you what kind: **WANT TO / WOULD LIKE TO / JOBS / NEGATIVE / QUESTION**.

1 Lucas _____ a game designer. (want / be) **WANT TO**

- wants to be
- want to being
- wanting to be

2 Seo-yeon _____ as a vet in a small clinic. ('d like / work) **WOULD LIKE TO**

- 'd like to work
- would likes to work
- 'd liked to work

3 A _____ designs buildings and houses. **JOBS**

- journalist
- architect
- firefighter

4 I _____ in an office all day. (not want / sit) **NEGATIVE**

- don't want to sit
- not want to sit
- doesn't want sit

5 Chidi _____ big planes across the world. ('d like / fly) **WOULD LIKE TO**

- 'd like to fly
- would liked to fly
- 'd likes to fly

6 _____ to be a teacher? (you / want) **QUESTION**

- Do you want
- Want you
- Are you want

7 A _____ helps sick people in a hospital. **JOBS**

- pilot
- chef
- nurse

8 Lena _____ boring grey buildings. (not want / design) **NEGATIVE**

- doesn't want to design
- don't wants to design
- not want to designing

06

SPEAKING

Career interview

Interview your partner about their dream career

Ask and answer these questions. Use **want to** and **would like to** in every answer. Then swap and answer your partner's questions!

- What do you want to be when you grow up? Why?
- What skills do you need for your dream job?
- Would you like to work indoors or outdoors? Why?
- Is there a job you would NOT like to do? Why not?
- Do you know someone who has your dream job? What do they do?

EXAMPLE CONVERSATION

A: What do you want to be when you grow up?

B: I want to be a vet because I love animals. I'd like to work in a small clinic.

A: What skills do you need?

B: I think I need to be patient and brave. I'd also like to learn biology.

A: Would you like to work in a big city?

B: Not really. I'd like to work in a small town. I don't want to live in a big city.

07

WRITING

Your own "My Dream Job" paragraph

Write a short paragraph (70–100 words)

Like the four teens in the reading, write about YOUR dream job. Use **want to** and **would like to** as much as you can!

- at least 2 sentences with "want to + verb"
- at least 2 sentences with "d like to + verb"
- at least 3 job/career vocabulary words (career, skill, salary, goal...)
- at least 1 reason using "because"

08

QUIZ

Check your understanding

Circle the correct answer. Check your answers at the end.

1. Choose the **CORRECT** form:

- A. I want to being a doctor.
- B. I want to be a doctor.
- C. I want be a doctor.
- D. I wanting to be a doctor.

2. What is the polite form of 'I want to go'?

- A. I'd like to go.
- B. I'd liked to go.
- C. I would likes to go.
- D. I'd wanting to go.

3. Choose the **CORRECT** negative:

- A. She not want to work late.
- B. She doesn't want to work late.
- C. She don't wants to work late.
- D. She doesn't wants to work late.

4. A person who designs buildings is called a(n) _____.

- A. journalist
- B. architect
- C. engineer
- D. designer

5. How do you make a question with 'would like to'?

- A. Would you like to try it?
- B. Do you would like to try it?
- C. Like you would to try it?
- D. You would like to try it?

6. Which sentence is **WRONG**?

- A. I'd like to be a chef.
- B. She wants to study medicine.
- C. He would likes to travel.
- D. We don't want to wear uniforms.

7. Choose the **CORRECT** sentence:

- A. Do you want to be a pilot?
- B. Want you to be a pilot?
- C. Are you want to be a pilot?
- D. You do want to be a pilot?

8. From the reading: What does Lena want to design one day?

- A. a hospital
 - B. a museum
 - C. a school
 - D. a bridge
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ANSWER KEY**Fill in the blanks:**

1. wants to be · 2. 'd like to work · 3. architect · 4. don't want to sit · 5. 'd like to fly · 6. Do you want · 7. nurse · 8. doesn't want to design

Quiz:

1. B · 2. A · 3. B · 4. B · 5. A · 6. C · 7. A · 8. B

Great career planning! You finished Lesson 37.
Next lesson: Screen Time — Technology & Social Media