

Vision Activity 2 – Sweet and Sour Summers

In a 2015 interview on Tim Ferriss's podcast, lawyer, investor and former Google employee Chris Sacca tells a story from his childhood.³

Once he was old enough to earn money, each summer his parents would make him work most of the holidays. They wanted to teach him the value of hard work, life experience and the importance of looking after money. Here's the trick, though: they made him do *two jobs per summer holiday*.

The first few weeks would be **on a job he wanted to do**. The work was hard, but he had the advantage of being interested. These would be the **"sweet" weeks**, where it was fun to go into work, good to hang out with colleagues, and the day-to-day activities were engaging.

The second few weeks would be **on a job he didn't want to do**. Typically, Sacca says, it would be a job which didn't interest him. These would be the **"sour" weeks**, where the work was hard and repetitive, often very boring. Sacca still uses the phrase "sweet and sour summers" to describe these holiday jobs, and explains it was these experiences that gave him huge advantages over regular students, who often had no life experience at all compared to him.

Let's imagine we had Chris Sacca's parents. It's a few weeks before our summer holiday and we're lining up our employment. We're about to make some phone calls and send some emails, asking for the chance to do some summer work. Make some choices here, and populate the two lists overleaf.

What would be amongst your best possible summer jobs, and what would be amongst your worst? (They have to be real jobs, so no "chocolate taster" or "Netflix watcher" allowed!) You might want to start by considering our list – we've imagined 40 organisations that you might find in a typical town or nearby city, all waiting for your phone call – but after that, add your own...

Advertiser/graphic designer running local campaigns, Architect's office, Art Gallery exhibition organisation, Beauty therapist, Book publisher, Bookstore, Charities fundraising organisation, Computer games company, Dieticians and health advisors, Eco/environmental organisation, Educational psychologist, Electronics company, Engineering firm, Farming/agricultural organisation, Fitness centre, gym and swimming pool, Foreign aid company, Laboratories researching and developing new products, Legal services and the local courts, Local library, Local MP, Local Police force, Local radio station, Logistics company of long-distance lorry drivers, Manufacturing company, Media company – local newspapers, magazines and TV, Media company – short films and animations, Medical company developing vaccines, Museum, Music therapist/teacher/recording studio, Pharmacy, Photographer, Pupil referral unit, Retail work, Science museum, Software firm, Tabletop/boardgames design firm, Theatre, Town planning and urban design firm, Veterinary centre, Web design company

³ <https://tim.blog/2015/05/30/chris-sacca/>

Sweet	Sour

Now that you've completed your list, imagine you're about to compose an email or make a call asking for work from one of your "sweet" summer jobs. You've got a chance to include:

- An introduction to yourself and what your interests are
- What you're hoping to get out of your summer work
- Specific projects or parts of the work you'd love to be involved in.

Use the space below to make notes about what you'd want to include in your introductory email:

Insert five lines

Some things to consider...

Are there any themes emerging from your imaginary job choices? Think about whether your sweet jobs have certain similarities, or your sour jobs do. These might be clues to pursue when you get to thinking about how you want to earn your money in future.

Finally – push yourself to imagine trying to get one of your 'sweet' jobs. Is it possible? What employers near where you live might take you on? Is there someone you could speak to? You never know, there might be a future career waiting for you...