



Offices / fragment of the picture by Ivan Koulakov

MODULE 3

THE FUTURE OF WORK

Grammar focus: Future forms; modal verbs of obligation

Discuss these sayings with your partner.

Whenever you are asked if you can do a job, tell'em, - certainly I can, - and get busy and find out how to do it. (Theodore Roosevelt)

A lot of fellows nowadays have a B.A., M.D., or Ph.D. Unfortunately, they don't have a J.O.B.

PART I Work for Life

Warm-up

Ex.1 Discuss the following questions.

In the middle of the 20th century, many workers in the rich world expected a job for life in one place, but today frequent job changes are not unusual. We change locations, roles, and even professions. Why so? Who benefits from it? Will it change in the future?

READING

Ex. 2 Read the text about Justin's work choice. What advice does he give and would you accept it?

Jack-of-All-Trades

Justin is a **laid-back** rock-climbing guide whom my wife and I met during our last vacation in the red canyons of Moab, Utah. He's also been guiding rafters, climbers, and hikers for the past six years.

Justin's rock-climbing skills easily translated into work as an arborist during the off-season, climbing up trees and then cutting them from the top down to **prevent** damage to nearby buildings. Since his graduation from university six years ago, he has also worked as an artisanal baker, a carpenter, and a house painter. This makes him something of a **jack-of-all-trades**.

His advice is "to be as **flexible** as you can—and work your tail off." Justin **frequently** changes his location based on the season, work, and nearby climbing **opportunities**. Rather than working for one **employer**, he combines jobs wherever he can find them. His **easygoing**

personality **enables** him to connect with people and find new opportunities when they become **available**.

In the winter, he is going to stay with a friend who is building a house, **trading** help with carpentry and wiring in exchange for free rent. He's been living on a shoestring for a while now, saving money every year. In the longer term, he'd like to develop all of the skills that he needs to build his own home and then pay for land and materials entirely with **savings** from his bank account. He plans to grow fruit trees and become somewhat **self-sufficient**. After that time, he says, "I'll work when I need, and live the **debt-free**, low-cost lifestyle when I'm older.

Justin's lesson is applicable to all of us; there is a difference between **earning** a living and making a life.

Ex.3 According to the text *Jack-of-All-Trades* (see Ex.2), are the following statements true (T), false (F) or not stated (NS)?

- 1 Over the last six years Justin Cagiano has been flexible to adjust to the changing job opportunities.
- 2 Justin got his MS in Civil Engineering from Utah State University.
- 3 He can do well both in physical and knowledge work.
- 4 Justin works fixed hours, for fixed salary and at fixed location.
- 5 Justin's communicative skills help him find various part-time jobs in the area.
- 6 Justin's model of work provides an enormous level of predictability as he knows how much he will earn on a monthly basis.
- 7 Justin's advice is to work hard and adapt to changes in the job market.
- 8 Justin has been saving money to rent a house during the winter time.
- 9 He's been economizing recently because he wants to become financially independent in the future.
- 10 In the future he hopes to find long-term employment in some construction company.

Ex.4 Discuss the following questions.

What happens when your career becomes your identity? How can it happen? Who can benefit from it?

READING

Ex. 5 Read the text about Dan, who holds a high-power and high-pressure position in a law firm. How does he feel about it?

Why Am I Even Here?

Dan, a partner at a major Boston law firm, was due at the office, but instead, he was curled on his bathroom floor, unshaven and in his pajamas, crying into a towel.

It began slowly, in a meeting with a particularly pushy client, when a thought bubbled up in his mind: "Why the hell am I even here?" From that moment, he noticed that his impatience,

unhappiness, and frustration with his job grew deeper, until all at once, he realized: he didn't find happiness or **fulfilment** in his work — and maybe he never had.

For someone who had built his entire idea of himself around his career, this thought sent Dan into an existential crisis. Who was he, if not a **high-powered** lawyer? Had he wasted so many years working for nothing? Would he have had more friends and a happier family if he hadn't spent all those nights at the office?

Dan's story is not uncommon. Many people with **high-pressure** jobs find themselves unhappy with their careers, despite working hard their whole lives to get to their current position. Hating your job is one thing — but what happens if you identify so closely with your work that hating your job means hating yourself?

Psychologists use the term “enmeshment” to describe a situation where the **boundaries** between people become **blurred**, and individual identities lose importance. Enmeshment **prevents** the development of a stable, independent sense of self. Dan — like many in high-pressure jobs — had become enmeshed not with another person, but with his career.

<https://hbr.org/2019/12/what-happens-when-your-career-becomes-your-whole-identity>

VOCABULARY

Ex.6 Study the definitions of the words. Find them in the texts above and translate in context.

available	(adj.) accessible, easy to obtain
debt-free	(adj.) without borrowing money or taking out a loan
blurred [blɜːd]	(adj.) blurry, not clear, fuzzy
boundary ['baʊnd(ə)rɪ]	(n.) a border, a limit
to earn [ɜːn]	(v.) to obtain money in return for labour or services
easy-going	(adj.) relaxed and tolerant
employer	(n.) boss, a person or organization you work for
to enable	(v.) to make possible, to empower
flexible	(adj.) adaptable, easily modified
frequently	(adv.) often, regularly
fulfilment	(n.) realization, achievement, satisfaction
high-power(ed)	(adj.) having a great deal of influence, power and responsibility
high-pressure	(adj.) stressful, active, unconcerned
Jack-of-all-trades	a person who can do many different types of work
laid-back	(adj.) relaxed, careless, unconcerned
opportunity	(n.) occasion, chance, possibility
to prevent	(v.) to stop, to ensure smth does not happen
savings	(n.) the money one has saved
self-sufficient	(adj.) independent, able to live without anyone's help
to trade	(v.) to buy, sell, or exchange goods or services between themselves

Ex.7 Complete the sentences using the words from ex.6.

- 1 Everyone here has a really _____ attitude to work.
- 2 Winning the championship was the _____ of a childhood dream.
- 3 Parents should not break their child's personal _____.
- 4 If he continues gambling, he will most likely lose all of his _____.
- 5 Traditional farming methods will help this small country to become _____ in food.
- 6 We want to see equal career _____ for men and women.
- 7 Everyone should be able to _____ a living.
- 8 In my new job, I will have _____ working hours.
- 9 _____ and master of none.
- 10 Experts say that using AI will _____ companies from creating more office jobs.

DISCUSSION

Ex.8 Let us reflect on Justin's and Dan's stories (after reading the texts in ex.2 and ex.5).

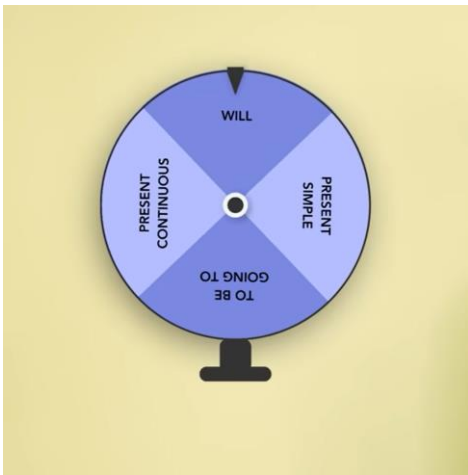
- 1 What do these two stories have in common?
- 2 In what way are the two men's careers different?
- 3 Who do you think is more successful? Why so?
- 4 Why is Dan suffering a nervous *meltdown**? What did he probably do wrong in his career journey?
- 5 What will Dan probably do next?
- 6 In the long run, who is most likely to achieve self-fulfillment?
- 7 What career path appeals to you personally?

*A *meltdown* was originally a catastrophic accident in a nuclear reactor. Now it has become common to use it in the figurative sense of 'a disastrous collapse or breakdown'.

GRAMMAR

Ex.9 The Future Forms

What are some ways to express the idea of future actions and events? Think about grammatical and lexical means.



The Future Forms

Ex.10 Review the grammar notes. Think of your own examples using *will* and *be going to*.

will + V	be going to + V
<p>to predict future events basing on personal opinion or knowledge</p> <p><i>e.g. Robots will replace humans in farming.</i></p>	<p>to predict future events basing on something we can see now, or that everybody knows</p> <p><i>e.g. Look at the screen! The device is going to break down.</i></p>
<p>to talk about what we think or believe will happen. We may have no evidence.</p> <p><i>e.g. I think people will become happier in the future.</i></p>	<p>to talk about sth in the future which we can see will happen as a result of sth in the present.</p> <p><i>e.g. His breaks have failed! He's going to crash!</i></p>
<p>To express the speaker's intention decided <u>at the moment of speaking.</u>)</p> <p><i>e.g. - What do you want to drink?</i> <i>- I'll have apple juice, please.</i></p>	<p>to express the speaker's intention and a plan.</p> <p><i>e.g. - What are you going to do when you graduate from university?</i> <i>- I'm going to take an exam next week.</i></p>
<p>to talk about our hopes and expectations about the future. After verbs and expressions like be afraid, be/feel sure, believe, doubt, expect, think, etc.</p> <p><i>e.g. I hope people will be happier with their work in the future.</i></p>	
<p>To express offers, promises, warnings</p> <p><i>e.g. I'll work harder next semester, I promise.</i> <i>I will not allow bad behaviour in my class.</i></p>	

NB! Sometimes we can use either will or be going when the situation is not clear and we don't know the exact context.

Ex.11 Complete the sentences. Use will + verb or be going to + verb.

- 1) Matt probably _____ (not come) with us. He doesn't like football.
- 2) Don't worry about the spot on your shirt. I'm sure nobody _____ (notice) it.
- 3) It _____ (be) a lovely day today. Look at the clear blue sky.
- 4) We can have the party here. I'm sure the neighbors _____ (not mind) the noise.
- 5) The traffic is very bad this morning. We _____ (be) late for our meeting.
- 6) Don't worry, I _____ (pay) you back soon.
- 7) I'm sure he _____ (do) well at his interview.
- 8) In ten years' time, people's lives _____ (not be) very different.
- 9) I _____ (stay) in today. I'm coming down with the flu.
- 10) I'm sure we _____ (win).

Ex.12 Complete the conversation with will + verb or be going to + verb.

A: I'm sorry you don't feel well.

B: Thanks, I'm sure I _____ (feel) better soon. I've decided to stay in bed today. I _____ (not do) any work on my report.

A: _____ you come to the office tomorrow?

B: I don't know. I haven't decided yet.

A: I could give you a lift.

B: Really? That would be great! I don't think my brother _____ (let) me borrow his car.

A: I _____ (pick) you up at about eight. OK?

B: Yes, lovely! Thank you very much.