

Attainment's  
**JOB SKILLS**  
**STORIES**  
**STUDENT BOOK** **1**

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## Job and Career Exploration

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## STORY 1

# What's Your Interest?



# 1 What's Your Interest? Vocabulary



## inventory

A complete list of a student's interests.

My job interest *inventory* had “coach” as a top match.



## technology

How science knowledge is used to make and improve things.

New medical *technology* saves lives.



## enforcement

Making sure people follow rules.

There was *enforcement* of the curfew from her parents.



## coach

Someone who trains people to do things.

The baseball team leader is a great batting *coach*.

# 1 What's Your Interest?

*Friends have fun creating nicknames that match their work interests.*

David, Alexis, Emily, and Hunter sat in math class talking quietly. Mr. Amos was passing out the results of the final exams.

Hunter got his test. He was pleased to see he had an A. He waved it about and said, "Who's the man?"

"Way to go, Hunter!" Alexis said. "You are so good at math. You could teach this class!"

"Yeah," David said, "Did you ever think about being a math teacher?"

"Not really," Hunter answered.

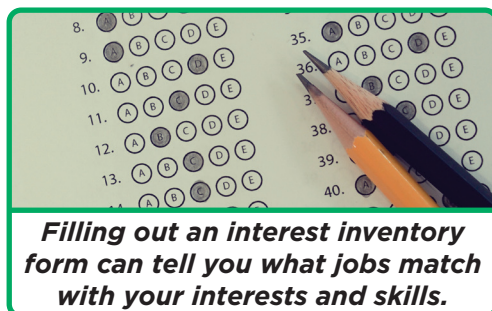
"What did the job interest **inventory** say?" Emily asked.

"It had 'math teacher' as my top match," Hunter said. "But, my goal is to have a career in law **enforcement** or safety. I think I will have some chances to use math there. And, I know I'll need math away from work."

"Can you be in law enforcement and use a wheelchair?" David asked.

"Yes," Hunter said, "I've been looking into it. There are quite a few law enforcement jobs that appeal to me that I can do."

"Well, they say there is safety in numbers! We're going to call you Officer Hunter," Emily said. "I guess your law



***Filling out an interest inventory form can tell you what jobs match with your interests and skills.***

enforcement jobs  
do go with math!”

David laughed.  
He looked at Hunter  
and said, “She’s right,  
Officer!”

Mr. Amos  
interrupted the  
group. He said,  
“Alexis, could you  
please come up here  
and look at my computer? I’m not sure what I did, but  
something’s wrong.”

Alexis said, “Sure.” She walked up to Mr. Amos’s desk  
and sat down in front of his computer. About one minute  
later, she said, “Mr. Amos, you must have hit the wrong  
key and it cleared your screen. Everything is fine now. But,  
would you like me to clean your keyboard for you? It’s  
kinda messy, and you might have a sticky key.”

“Sure,” Mr. Amos said.

Alexis cleaned the keyboard. Then, she said, “There you  
go, Mr. Amos. All set to go. You shouldn’t have any more  
sticky keys.”

“Thanks, Alexis,” Mr. Amos said. “I appreciate both you  
and your talents!”

Alexis returned to her friends. Hunter said, “Welcome  
back, Computer Wizard. We’re going to call you Wizard  
from now on!”

“You are so funny!” Alexis laughed.

“Seriously, Alexis,” Emily said, “what did the results of  
the interest inventory say about your computer skills?”

“It listed ‘computer technician’ as my top match,” Alexis



***Interest inventories often  
match personal interests, such as  
suggesting a computer job for a  
person who loves computers.***



said. “That works for me. There are several different kinds of **technology** jobs I think I’d like. As long as I’m working with computers, I think I’ll be happy.”

“Sounds right, Wizard,” Emily laughed. “I need to get home and watch my sister and my cousin. I only have to watch them for about 30 minutes. Do you guys want to come to my house?”

“Sure,” Alexis, David, and Hunter said at once.

At Emily’s house, Emily sat on the floor playing with the two little girls while her friends sat on the couch and chair. After a while, Hunter said to Alexis, “Do you see how good she is with those little girls?”

“What do you mean?” Alexis asked.

Hunter replied, “Well, if you watch closely, you’ll see that she **T**rains, **E**xplains, **A**cts, **C**ares, and **H**elps. So let’s call her ‘Teach,’ because that’s what she does with little kids. They can’t resist her!”

“I see what you mean,” Alexis said. “She’s a natural working with little kids, isn’t she?”

“I can hear you, you know!” Emily said. “And, it’s not nice to talk about people.”

“Well, Teach, I can hear them, too,” David said. “And, I’d have to say they are right. Your teaching is good for kids! What did your interest inventory say about you teaching small children?”

“I bet you can guess!” Emily said.



***When a person is a natural with kids, it is not surprising that an interest inventory would suggest teaching as a main interest.***

‘Elementary teacher’ was my top match. I’d be happy to teach any grade as long as I’m working with little kids.” Emily turned her head and listened. Then she said, “I hear my mom pulling in. So, I’m about done. We are going to David’s swim meet, right?”



***On an interest inventory, some athletes might learn that coaching is a top interest.***

“Of course,” Hunter said.

“Great,” David said. “So, Officer, Wizard, and Teach, let’s go. I have to be there in 30 minutes.”

At the meet, the three friends sat together watching David warm up. When he finished, he joined them on the bleachers.

David left when his freestyle race time got close. The three friends started cheering as soon as David dove off the block, “Go, **Coach**, Go!” they yelled over and over. When he came in first in his heat, they cheered, “Yay, Coach Bigfish!”

“Why do you call him Coach Bigfish?” a fan behind them asked.

“Three reasons,” Hunter said. “He’s always encouraging other swimmers, he’s the tallest swimmer on the team, and he swims as fast as a fish!”

Alexis added, “And his interest inventory says that he would be a good coach. He’s great at explaining how to do things!”

After the swim meet, the friends waited for David. Then they all left together. As they left, they laughed about how their nicknames would make great jobs for them!

# 1 What's Your Interest? Quiz

Select the correct answer.

1. Which word includes computers, TVs, and cell phones?  
  - A** inventory
  - B** keyboards
  - C** technology
2. Many people \_\_\_\_\_ doing things that they are good at.  
  - A** enjoy
  - B** regret
  - C** stop
3. An inventory is a \_\_\_\_\_.  
  - A** liquid
  - B** tool
  - C** vehicle
4. What can you learn from an interest inventory?  
  - A** kinds of foods that you like the best
  - B** which careers are related to your interests
  - C** the amount of money you will make on your savings
5. What job interest does this picture show?  
  - A** computer technician
  - B** law enforcement
  - C** teacher



## STORY 2

# An Accidental Look at Job Interests



# 2 An Accidental Look at Job Interests

## Vocabulary



### role

What is expected of you in your job.

As team captain, she took on a leadership *role*.



### sample

A part of something taken from the whole.

The ice cream store will give you a free flavor *sample* if you ask.



### deliver

Bring things to a person or place.

The bookstore will *deliver* the textbooks right to our class.



### aide

A person who assists someone else.

The nurse's *aide* brought a pitcher of water to the patient.

# 2 An Accidental Look at Job Interests

*After a car accident, a young woman discovers some hospital jobs match up to her interests.*

Nurse Anna walked into the room. She hung the IV bag on a hook. Then she said, “Just a little poke.” She used a bandage to hold the tube on Emily’s arm.

Emily opened her eyes and said, “I hurt all over. What happened?”

Nurse Anna answered, “You were in a car accident. A truck ran a stop sign and hit your car. You broke your leg. Let’s clean you up a little.” She wiped blood and dirt off Emily’s arms.

“Broke my leg?” Emily moved the blanket. “When did I get that cast? And why do I have bandages on my other leg?”

“Dr. Shelly put the cast on and bandaged your cuts. You were not awake,” Nurse Anna explained.

Emily said, “It must be interesting to have a job where you explain what happened to confused people!” Nurse Anna smiled.

A lab tech came into the room. Nurse Anna said, “Emily, this is William. It is his job to take blood **samples**. You don’t have to worry. He’s really good at it.”



***Nurses work with other healthcare workers to help sick or injured people.***



Nurse Anna left the room. William set his tray on the table by the bed. He said, “Hi, Emily. This won’t hurt much. And, I will be quick.”

In about one minute, it was over. “That was fast,” Emily said. “I guess Nurse Anna was right. You are good at it.”

“I practice a lot,” William said.

Nurse Anna came back. “That wasn’t so bad, was it?”

“No,” Emily said. “It was fast and hardly hurt at all. When I get a job, I’m going to work hard to be really good at it, just like William!”

A young man came in and put a tray of food on the table. “Hello there, I hope you’re hungry. Enjoy,” he said as he left the room.

“I am hungry,” Emily said as she lifted the lid on the plate. “That looks good!” Then she asked, “Is his whole job to **deliver** food around the hospital?”

Nurse Anna said, “He both delivers food and takes trays back to the kitchen when patients are done with them.”

Emily said, “I think a nice thing about his job is that he gets to exercise all day long.”

A girl came in the room with a bouquet of flowers. She said, “Hello, I’ve got a flower delivery for you! Would you like them over here?”

Emily said, “Sure, thanks!”



***Healthcare workers work together as a team.***

Emily said to Nurse Anna, “There sure are a lot of people coming in and out of my room!”

Nurse Anna said, “Every worker has an important **role** to make the hospital run smoothly. We all work together and each do our part.”



***People who do delivery jobs move all around the hospital.***

“So, the girl who brought the flowers in?” Emily asked. “Does she work for the hospital?”

Nurse Anna said, “Yes, she does. The flower companies deliver to the front desk. We deliver from the front desk to the rooms.”

“So, there’s another job where you get to move around all day,” Emily said. “And, besides that, I think it would be fun to be a person who brings cheer to a sick person’s room.”

Emily’s doctor walked into the room. Dr. Shelly said, “Glad to see you awake, Emily. How are you feeling?”

Emily said, “I hurt. But I want to go home. Can I?”

Dr. Shelly said, “You can go home soon. At home, you will need to keep your broken leg up as much as possible. You will need a home health **aide** for a while.”

“Where do I find a home health aide?” Emily asked.

Another person walked into the room. Nurse Anna answered, “This is Tonya. She’s a nurse’s aide. She will help you with setting up the home health aide.”



After Tonya explained all the details, Emily said, “Thanks! You’ve made it all so clear and easy. I like explaining things to people, too. I might like a job like yours.”

Tonya said, “It’s a good job. I get to help a lot of people!”

When Emily got home, the home health worker came a few times during her first week. Her name was Cindy and she was very careful with Emily’s injuries. Emily asked her, “Do you spend the whole day going to different patients’ homes?”

Cindy said, “Yes. It’s sort of like my car is my office.”

Emily said, “That’s kind of neat. You can listen to music between houses. It’s a job with lots of freedom.”

Cindy smiled, “You’re right. It’s a great job!”

Two months later, Emily’s broken leg was almost healed, and she was ready to get her cast off! Afterward, Tonya came into her room. She said, “Hi Emily. I’m glad to see your leg is healed. Now you need a couple of weeks of physical therapy.”

Emily smiled and said, “I bet you are the person who sets that up!”

“You’re right!” Tonya said. “And I’ve gotten so busy that I’m looking for an assistant.”

“Really?” Emily said with interest. “I think I’ll apply. My accident has opened my eyes to some new interests in healthcare.”



***Home health workers provide healthcare at people’s homes.***

# 2 An Accidental Look at Job Interests Quiz

Select the correct answer.

1. Many jobs require that people work together as \_\_\_\_\_.  
  - A** a team
  - B** neighbors
  - C** replacements
  
2. Many healthcare jobs require that workers \_\_\_\_\_ people.  
  - A** anger
  - B** help
  - C** surprise
  
3. To find a job, it helps to know the interests you have that relate to \_\_\_\_\_.  
  - A** employment
  - B** laughing
  - C** your friends
  
4. Which job would work best for a person who wants to move around all day?  
  - A** construction worker
  - B** data entry worker
  - C** grocery store clerk
  
5. How many workers are working together in this picture?  
  - A** 2
  - B** 3
  - C** 4

