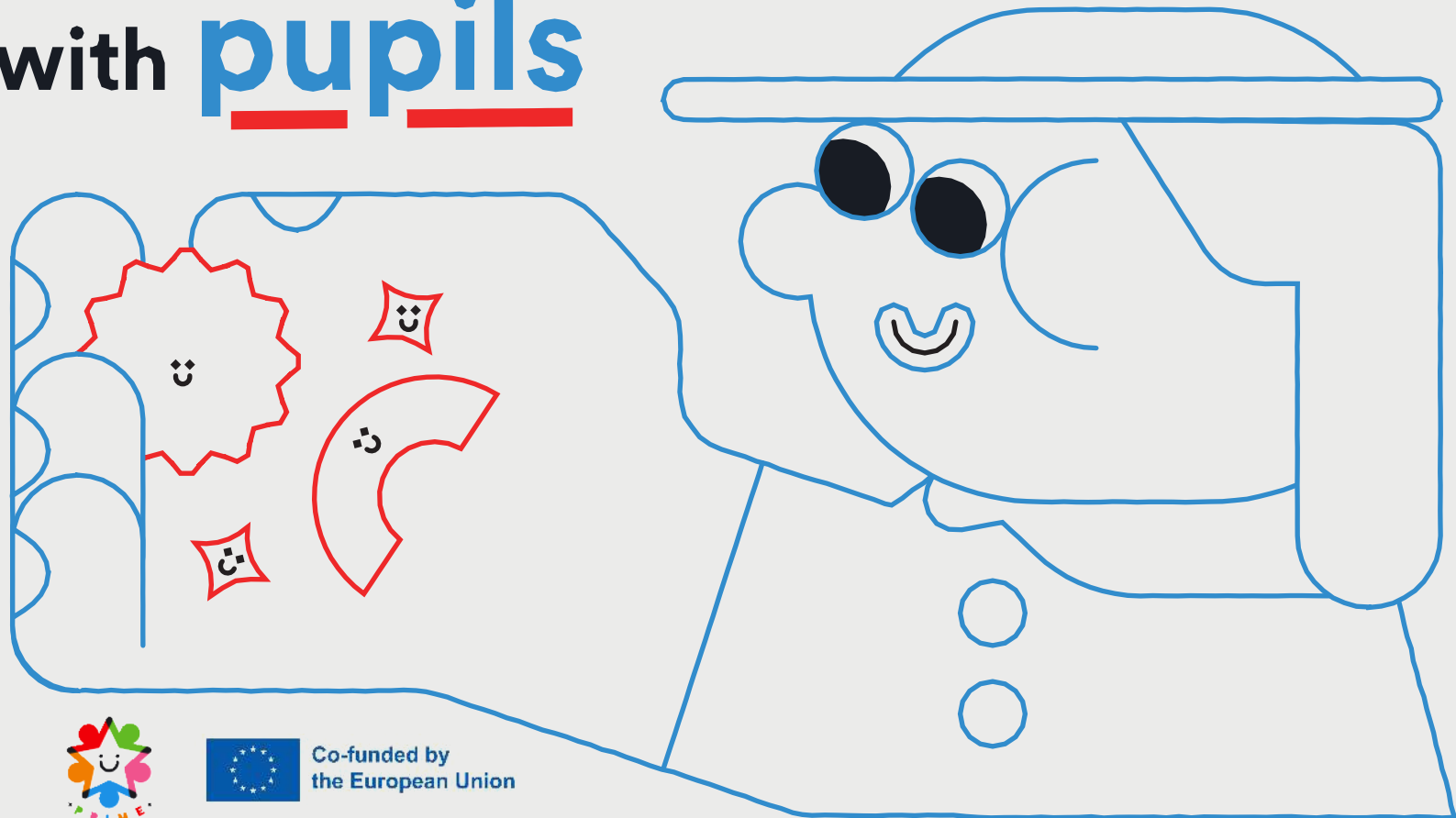



# Supporting employers in career-related learning activities with pupils



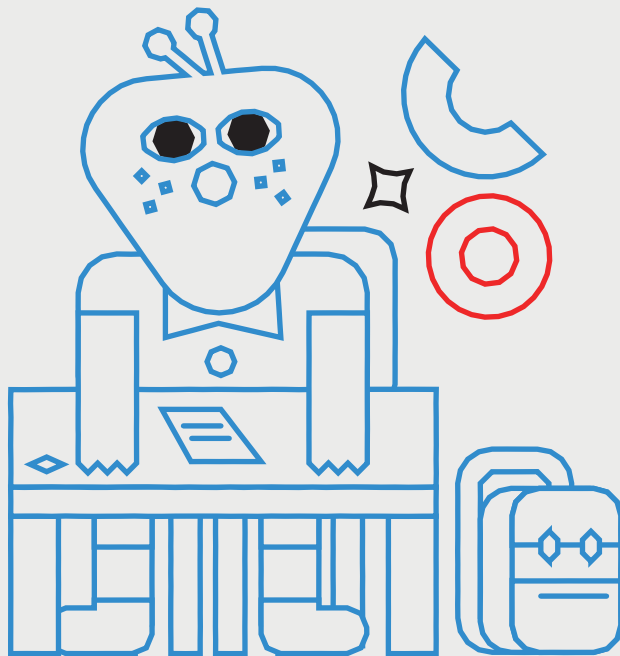
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**Further resources at  
[www.projectprime.eu](http://www.projectprime.eu)**

# Explain your job: what a challenge!



## Activity challenge:

you are about to present yourself to an **alien**.

Remember not to give anything for granted!

Check the terminology you use and remember:

pupils might not know anything regarding your job!

# Tips to **engage** students



start from  
the product



bring a  
tool



link what you do  
with a school  
subject



bring a piece of  
garment you wear  
in your job



**Start from something they are all familiar with**



**start from a problem you help solving to highlight your role**



**tell them how the world would be without your professional profile**



**start from things that pupils already know or think they know about your profession**



**bring pictures or videos**

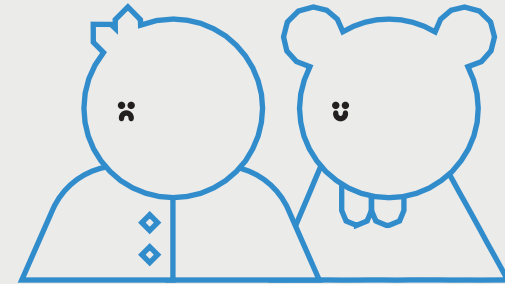
# Practice with typical questions

## Group 1: describing the job

- What is the name of your job?
- ★ What does it mean in practice?
- ✦ What do you do in your job?
- ▲ Do you need to wear anything specific?
- ⬢ How much do you earn?
- Which tools do you use?
- ★ Where do you work (physical space)
- ✦ Where do you work (the company)
- ▲ Do you work outside or inside?
- ⬢ Do you work sitting or standing?
- ⬢ Who do you work with?
- ▼ Is there a lot of technology in your job?
- ✦ How can you change the world with your job?
- ★ What do you need to study to do that job?
- Which school subject do you need the most in your job?
- ⬢ How can a person become x professional?
- ▼ Do you speak other languages at your job?
- ✦ Which are the 3 main ingredients you need to do x job (things you should know or should be able to do to do your job)

## Group 2: I like/I don't like

- What is the best thing about your job?
- ★ What is the most difficult thing about your job?
- ✦ What is the thing you like the least in your job?



## Group 3: About you/Your experience

- Did you know you wanted to do that job when you were a child?
- ★ How did you discover your passion?
- ✦ What is the main obstacle you had to face in your career journey?
- ▲ Were you considering other jobs/careers? What made you choose that job?
- Did you know that job existed when you were a child?
- If you look back, is there any clue in your story that could tell you would have ended up in that job?
- ★ How did you end up in this job after school?

# Focal points: remember to...

“Complete the sentence” game:

**1.** ● **Stress contra-stereotypical aspects of your job**, tell the students that you have both male and female colleagues, of different ages, with different school paths, and with ethnic backgrounds, “I am sure that when you think of ..... job you think of ..... . But have you ever thought of .....?” and also “A colleague of mine is originally from ... and is... years old , he/she does my same job“.

- - - - - **2.** ● **Highlight that every job is important, highlight the importance of collaboration in the world of work:** “Without professionals like me, the world would be.....“

**3.** ● **Focus on the journey**, make it explicit how you discovered your way step after step: “When I was younger I didn’t think I would/could have been ..... In fact, .....“



- - - - - **4** ● **Feel free to talk about difficulties and failures**, they are part of the story and help students understand that you can fail and that this is part of career development: “It happened many times to have difficult moments or to feel I failed. This is part of the journey as I have learnt ..... For example, once I was..... ”

**5** ● You have a certain educational background - **remind students that they can reach your job via different pathways** (no advice on certain educational pathways!): “I have attended x school but you can reach this job via many other ways such as....”

- - - - - **6** ● **If they ask about money, try not to focus on the precise amount of money** you earn but mention what you can do with that money. When discussing financial aspects, mention that salaries depend on experience, skills, and number of worked hours. Explicitly mention that salaries depend more on the person than on the job itself : “My job allows me to be economically independent, I can buy/do .... (the things you like!)” and also “I work ... hours a day and my colleague ..... For that reason we also have different salaries.”

**7** ● **Highlight sustainability aspects of your job.** “In my job, we are more and more careful about the environment, in fact we.....”

**8** ● **Make it explicit that you never stop studying even when you work.** Highlight the importance of lifelong learning. “When I finished school/university I thought I would have stopped studying but once I started working I realised that I had to keep learning and studying every day! For example.....”

- - - - - **9** ● **Remind them of the importance of transversal skills:** “You know for my job you need these skills (hard) ..... but actually if I didn't also know how to use these skills (soft)..... I couldn't do my job.”

**10** ● **Stress the fact that many of the skills needed in a work environment (soft skills) are skills students are already developing at school:** “In my job, being organised/solving problems/communication/.... is very important. For example, .... I am sure you are practicing this skill also at school!”

- - - - - **11** ● **Feel free to talk about aspects you do not like in your job but make sure you communicate how you deal with them,** what you learn from them: “In my job, I do not like ..... very much but I have learnt to cope with it this way:.....”

**12** ● **Be enthusiastic:** “ I am very proud of my profession because my job allows me to....”.

- - - - - **13.** Provide accurate information to the students, but without explicitly mention that their ideas are wrong: “I can understand why you think that, but have you thought about...”, “This aspect might be true for a very limited number of specialists doing my job, but for most of them things are different - and explain the difference”.

**14.** Stress out that the jobs (and your job) are not static and identical; the same profession can mean different tasks and need different skills in different companies, as well as different people can do the same job differently, depending on their personality and skills. “Think of all the teachers you know, they are all teachers but all different. The same happens in my job: for example.....It is important that you explore and as much as you can on jobs you find interesting. Remember to look for different ways of doing the same job”.

- - - - - **15.** Make sure that you don't include any generalization at all in your speech: “For me it was so ..... but let us remember that it is not so for all professionals” and also “This is how ..... works in my organisation, but all contexts can be different”.

