

## READING AND SPEAKING

### Dream jobs

1 What is your dream job? Close your eyes and think about it. Then answer these questions.

- Does the job require a lot of training or experience?
- Is it well-paid?
- Does it involve working with other people?
- Is it indoors or outdoors?
- Do you need to be physically strong to do it?
- Is it dangerous?
- Does it involve travel?

Work with a partner. Ask and answer the questions to guess each other's dream jobs.

2 Here are the stories of three people who believe they have found their dream job. Work in three groups.

**Group A** Read about **Stanley Karras**, the hurricane hunter.

**Group B** Read about **Linda Spelman**, the trapeze artist.

**Group C** Read about **Michael Doyle**, the cowboy in the sky.

Answer the questions in exercise 1 about your person.

3 Find a partner from the other two groups and compare information.

- Which of the jobs do you find most interesting?
- Would you like to do any of them?

4 Read the other two articles quickly. Answer the questions.

- 1 Who gets on well with the people they work with?
- 2 Who took up gymnastics?
- 3 Who hasn't come up with an experiment to do in space yet?
- 4 Whose job was handed down from father to son?
- 5 Who is cut off from his/her family?
- 6 Who finds it exciting to end up in different cities and countries?
- 7 Who often takes off at a moment's notice?
- 8 Who came across an ad?
- 9 Who wants to carry on working until they are at least 50?
- 10 Who gave up work as a lawyer?

### Language work

The underlined words in exercise 4 are all phrasal verbs. Match them with a verb or expression from the box below.

start doing (a hobby)	separated from
leave the ground and fly	stop doing
finally find yourself	think of
have a good relationship with	find by chance
continue	pass down

### Roleplay

Work with a partner. Look at p153.



**'There's no such thing as an average day in my job!'**

**Stanley Karras** works as a meteorologist in Tampa, Florida. It's his job to follow hurricanes by plane and provide information about them to scientists.

**How did you get the job?** I was working for the National Meteorological Office in Bracknell, near London, in the autumn of 1995, and I saw a documentary with my family called *Stormchasers*. It was about hurricane hunters and I thought, 'Wow, that's an interesting job!' As it happened, two months later I came across an ad for a meteorologist to work in Florida with the same people who had made the documentary. I applied, was interviewed over the phone, moved to the US, and started work here in Tampa in May 1996.

**What do you like most about it?** I love the travel. I've been all over the world chasing hurricanes. It's exciting to end up in different cities and different countries day after day. If you're a meteorologist, you have to love flying. I also love working with top scientists. I've learned so much from them. For me, it's like a classroom in the sky.

**What's an average day like?** There's no such thing as an average day in my job! It all depends on the weather, and you can't control that. We often take off at a moment's notice to chase storms. I'm the one who decides whether we fly low through a storm. I don't want to take us into a hurricane that could be particularly nasty.

**Have you made any sacrifices to do this job?** Yes, one big one. I'm away from my family. They all live in the UK. My wife's with me, of course, but her family is also in the UK, so we're pretty cut off from all of them.

**What would you like to do next?** I'd like to join a space programme and be the first meteorologist in space, but I haven't come up with an experiment to do in space yet. There aren't any hurricanes!

**What advice would you give to someone who wanted to do your job?** Study maths and science and get a degree in meteorology. I've taken the hurricane hunter path, but you could be a weather forecaster or do research. It's a fascinating subject and the pay's pretty good.





## The Trapeze Artist

‘You only live once so why stay in a boring job?’

**Linda Spelman** was a lawyer who found a new career in a circus. She now works as a trapeze artist, travelling with circuses throughout Canada, Europe, and East Asia.

**How did you get the job?** That’s quite a long story. My father’s a lawyer, so I thought I’d become one, too. Studying law was really, really hard work, so I took up gymnastics in the evenings to help me relax. When I finally passed my exams, I thought, ‘I need a break. I want to travel and learn a language.’ I’d heard of the École Nationale du Cirque in Montreal, so I thought, ‘I’ll join the circus.’ I went to Canada and did a trapeze course and, amazingly, I was good at it.

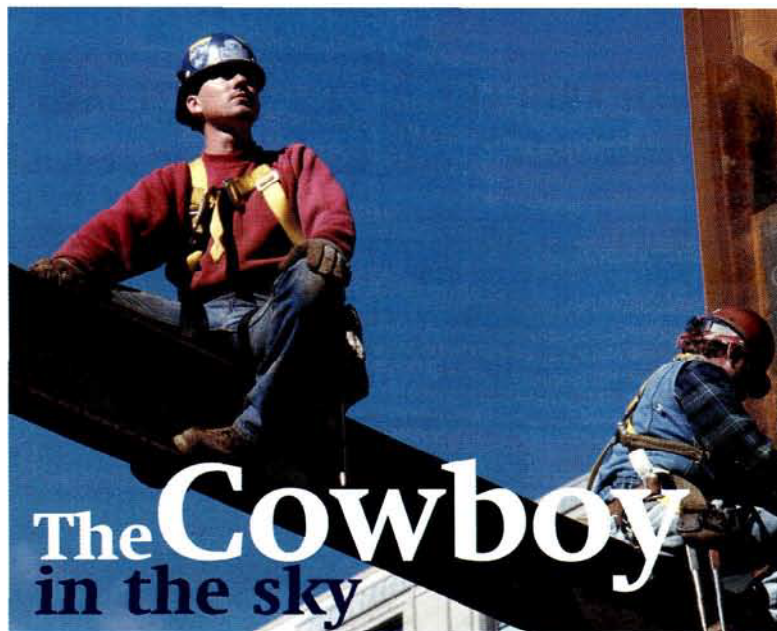
**What do you like most about it?** The excitement and the travel. I always wanted to travel and learn languages and I’ve done all of that. Also, I get on really well with circus people. They’re all nationalities. I’ve learned so much about life from them.

**What’s an average day like?** Everyone has to help in the circus, so you begin the day in a new town handing out flyers. In the afternoon, you work in the box office and rehearse. Then you do the act in the evening. At the end of a week, I’m so tired I spend a day in bed. Last month I twisted my shoulder and couldn’t work for a week.

**Have you made any sacrifices to do this job?** No, I haven’t, not really. I gave up doing something that I hated and I’m doing something that I love. I do miss my family sometimes, but that’s all. And of course I earn a lot less than a lawyer.

**What would you like to do next?** I’m 34 now. I’d like to carry on doing this until I’m at least 50. There are Russian trapeze artists still going strong in their fifties.

**What advice would you give to someone who wanted to do your job?** You need to be fit and strong and have a good head for heights. But generally, I’d say to anyone with a dream, ‘Go for it! You only live once, so why stay in a boring job?’



‘Many of today’s ironworkers are descendants of the men who built New York’s first skyscrapers.’

**Michael Doyle** is an ironworker in New York City. He’s one of 100 or so ironworkers currently erecting the steel frame of a new 40-storey building in Times Square. These ironworkers are known as ‘cowboys in the sky’.

**How did you get the job?** Ironwork is a trade that is still handed down from father to son. Many of today’s ironworkers are descendants of the men who built New York’s first skyscrapers. My great-grandfather came over from Ireland in 1930 to work on the construction of the Empire State Building. My father and grandfather were also ironworkers.

**What do you like most about it?** To me, ironworkers are the kings of construction. We make the skeleton that the other workers build on. We have real pride in our work – you look at the New York skyline and think ‘I helped build that.’ Also, we work hard, we play hard. We get on well together. We ironworkers depend on each other for our lives. Oh, and the pay is good!

**What’s an average day like?** You never stop in this job. Eight hours a day, from seven in the morning until three in the afternoon. You’re moving all the time. The crane lifts the iron girders and you have to move them into place. There’s always danger. It’s a fact of life for us.

**Have you made any sacrifices to do this job?** Yes, one big one – physical health. The wear and tear to the body is enormous. I’ve fallen three times. My father fell two storeys, lost a finger, and broke his ankles.

**What would you like to do next?** I’d like to work on something really important like my great-grandfather did. Or like my father did, who helped build the World Trade Center. It’s weird – he helped build it and I helped take it away.

**What advice would you give to someone who wanted to do your job?** You need to be strong, really strong. You have to be OK with height. It usually takes about a year to get used to it. You can’t work and hold on with one hand all the time. Many guys try it once, then back off and say, ‘This is not for me.’