A myth is something that lots of people believe is a fact, but actually isn’t true. While most myths relate to people or stories, some relate to jobs. There are lots of employment myths that lots of people might think are true but are not! Let's look at a few now.

**Myth one: There are “men’s jobs” and “women’s jobs”**

One example of this is nursing. Ever since Florence Nightingale founded the nursing profession in the mid-1800s, nursing has mostly been seen as a “woman’s job.” During wartimes, lots of men were sent to fight as soldiers. Women were not allowed to fight in the army, but lots of women did the important job of nursing wounded soldiers instead. This led to people linking women more with nursing.

It is true that there are less male nurses than female. Today, only one out of every ten nurses are men, but this figure is growing. The number of 18 year old men applying to study nursing has increased by more than 50% in a decade. Physical or manual jobs like firefighters, plumbers and mechanics have traditionally been viewed as men’s jobs, but both men and women can do these jobs and be great at them!

**Myth two: You have to go to university to get a good job**

There are lots of well paid jobs that you do have to go to university to do, such as doctor, lawyer, or architect. However, there are lots of exciting jobs with good pay that you do not need to study at university for. Jobs in the creative sector, like film director or producer, prefer experience over education. If you enter the film industry at a young age you can work your way up by gathering experience as you go.

You can also do an apprenticeship instead of going to University. This is where you work and study at the same time. If you’re excited to get straight into the working world, this can be a good option for you because you learn ‘on the job’. One route is not better than the other, it’s about which route works best for you.
Myth three: The most important jobs are the ones that are paid the most

It is not always the case that the most important jobs are the ones that pay the most. As we have seen in recent times during the pandemic, it’s not just doctors who are helping people. Nurses, cleaners, porters and catering staff all help to keep patients safe in hospital in different ways. Without them, hospitals would not function, but they are considered ‘low income’ workers. This means they do not get paid a lot, and sometimes their roles are viewed as ‘unskilled’. I think we have all seen that they deserve a lot of respect for the amazing jobs they do. The term ‘key worker’ shows that what they do is very important.

Myth four: You should have a ‘job for life’

The world that our grandparents and great grandparents lived in was very different to the one we are living in now. When our grandparents were starting out in the world of work, it was expected that you should choose the job you want to do and get a ‘job for life’. There was less choice in those days and people often stayed with the same company for decades. There was little chance to move around and try different things. Since the invention of the internet and advances in technology, the world of work is changing at such a rapid rate that some of the jobs that exist now may not exist in 10 years! It is more acceptable now to change your career and study later in life if you want to try something new. There are some secure jobs that will probably be around in some form forever, but it’s exciting to think that by the time you are an adult there will be lots of new careers for you to try if you want to!

Job centre activity

I hope that busting these myths has shown you that when it comes to jobs you can be anything you want to be!

The activity on the next page will help you think about what kind of job you might like to do when you’re older, and will give you a taste of what it’s like to look for a job.
Kai, Kals!
Finding the perfect job can be difficult, that’s why here in KidZania we like to trial and test as many options as possible! From housekeeper to firefighter, astronaut to librarian; there is something out there for everyone!

But securing those jobs is sometimes not as easy as it seems! Here at the KidZania Job Centre we’ve made a step-by-step process you can follow in order to find that dream profession!

First, we need to do some writing. Take out a notebook and pen and get ready to jot down a few facts about yourself!

**All about you!**
It doesn’t have to be a lot! Summarise yourself in a few sentences e.g. your name, age and why you want a job.

**Your education!**
Companies need to know what sort of things you learnt at school in case they have certain subject requirements for the job they’re offering. Here you need to make a list of everything you’re studying at school. If you’ve taken any exams or tests, then jot down the grade you achieved as well!

**Skills!**
Everyone has skills. Whether you think they’re relevant to a job or not, it’s always best to make people aware of your achievements – just in case! Make a list of all the different skills you have. This could include any first aid courses you’ve attended, any second languages you know or even any competitions you’ve won!

**Hobbies!**
Finally, let them know about your fun side. A lot can be said about someone’s work ethic from their personality so by showing companies that you like a range of activities outside school, it presents you in a good light! If you enjoy football, singing, karate or even baking cakes on the weekend – make a note of it!
After you’ve made notes on each of these sections, either type them up or write them out onto a big piece of paper.

This is your first **curriculum vitae or CV**, for short. This is what employers will ask to see every time you apply for a job. It’s an overview of you as a person and needs to contain all the necessary information that people need to see if you fit the job description!

Once you get a job, work for a little bit then decide to move onto another, you can list that first job and any skills you gained or training you received under ‘**Previous work**’ on your CV. Keep updating that list every time you find a new place to work; the more jobs you have, the more experience you’ve got!

If there’s a certain job you have in mind for the future, why not do some research about it? Job requirements are different depending on where you apply. Some places like their candidates to have been to University and other places require you to have been working for five years before applying; it’s different wherever you go! So why not investigate now? Get a head-start, so in a few years you’ll be the perfect person for the job!

If you don’t know what job you want in the future, that’s okay too! We don’t need to have our whole lives mapped out. Circumstances change, something you liked last year you might not like next year and there’s nothing wrong with that! Your personality grows up with you, so don’t worry – you’ll figure it out one day!

In the meantime, **why not take our job quiz online and see what your interests say about you?**

If you’ve made your first CV, let us know by tagging @KidZaniaLondon! See what jobs our other citizens are applying for by following the hashtag #KidZaniaAtHome.