

# Comparing jobs and hobbies

Students learn about the differences between jobs and hobbies and then play a game to apply their understanding.

## Learning goals

### Big idea

Some things we do to earn money, and some things we do just for fun.

### Essential questions

- What's a job?
- What's the difference between a job and a hobby?

### Objectives

- Understand the difference between a job and a hobby
- Consider how hobbies can become jobs

### What students will do



- Discuss the difference between a job and a hobby.
- Play a game where they'll stand up if they think an activity is a job and stay sitting if it's a hobby.

### NOTE

Please remember to consider your students' accommodations and special needs to ensure that all students are able to participate in a meaningful way.

### KEY INFORMATION

#### Building block:

-  Financial habits and norms
-  Financial knowledge and decision-making skills

**Grade level:** Elementary school (K-1, 2-3)

**Age range:** 5-7, 7-9

**Topic:** Earn (Becoming an entrepreneur, Making money)

**School subject:** English or language arts, Physical education or health, Social studies or history

**Teaching strategy:** Direct instruction, Gamification

**Bloom's Taxonomy level:** Understand, Apply

**Activity duration:** 15-20 minutes

### National Standards for Personal Financial Education, 2021

Earning income: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 8-9

These standards are cumulative, and topics are not repeated in each grade level. This activity may include information students need to understand before exploring this topic in more detail.

## Preparing for this activity

- While it's not necessary, completing the "[Learning about careers with Money Monsters](#)" activity before doing this one may make this activity more meaningful.
- Print the activities list in this guide to read to students, or prepare to access it electronically.

### What you'll need

#### THIS TEACHER GUIDE

- [Comparing jobs and hobbies \(guide\)](#)  
[cfpb\\_building\\_block\\_activities\\_comparing-jobs-hobbies\\_guide.pdf](#)
- [Activities list](#) (in this guide)

## Exploring key financial concepts

Most adults have jobs so they can make money and pay their bills. Many adults also have a hobby. A hobby is something we do for fun when we're not working. A job is a specific task that someone does to earn money. Sometimes our hobbies let us learn new skills in our free time. Adults often need to balance how much time they spend working and how much time they have for their hobbies. Kids also need to create this kind of balance. Kids often try to balance their time between school, homework, sports, and fun activities, or hobbies.

Sometimes people turn their hobbies into jobs. For example, someone who likes to take pictures may get a job as a photographer. Or, someone who likes to garden may get a job as a landscaper. But most of the time, hobbies are just for fun.

#### TIP

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Because careers, jobs, and laws change, students should be encouraged to always look for the most up-to-date information.

## Teaching this activity

### Whole-class introduction

- Ask students to share some things they like to do for fun.
  - Explain that these can be called hobbies, play, or leisure activities.

- Introduce students to the concept of a job.
  - Explain that a job is a specific task someone does to earn money.
- Ask students to share a job that an adult in their life has or had in the past.
  - If students get stuck, share a few examples. It might help to share examples of the many jobs people have in the school or program where you are.
    - Teacher
    - Nurse
    - Custodian
    - Crossing guard
    - Secretary
    - Cook
- Be sure students understand key vocabulary:
  - **Hobby:** An activity that a person does for pleasure when not working.
  - **Job:** A specific task that someone does to earn money.

**TIP**

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Visit CFPB’s financial education glossary at [consumerfinance.gov/financial-education-glossary/](https://consumerfinance.gov/financial-education-glossary/).

## Group work

- Introduce the game.
  - Tell students that you’ll read a list of activities.
  - They’ll listen to the activity and decide if it’s a job or a hobby.
    - Remind students that jobs are tasks people get paid for doing and hobbies are things people do for fun.
  - Students who think the activity is a job should stand up.
  - Students who think the activity is a hobby should stay seated.
  - Explain that sometimes an activity can be a hobby for some people and a job for others.
- Read each item on the activity list in this guide.
  - Make sure you give students time to think about the activity before you ask them to stand up or stay seated.
  - Ask students who think the activity is a job to stand up.
  - Ask students who think the activity is a hobby to stay seated.
- For each activity on the list:
  - Ask one or two students who are standing to share why they think the activity is a job.

- Ask one or two students who are sitting to share why they think the activity is a hobby.
- While the activity may seem like an obvious job or hobby to you, be open to students' reasons for their answers.
  - This can prompt rich conversations about ways to earn money.

## Wrap-up

If there's time, ask volunteers to share examples of jobs and hobbies they like to do.

## Suggested next steps

Consider searching for other [CFPB activities](#) that address the topic of earning, including becoming an entrepreneur or making money. Suggested activities include "[Earning money](#)" (grades K-1) or "[Playing a money counting game](#)" (grades 2-3).

## Measuring student learning

Students' answers during the game can give you a sense of their understanding. **Keep in mind that students' answers may vary, as there may not be only one right answer.** The important thing is for students to have reasonable justification for their answers.

## Activities list

- Read the activities to the class.
- Students should stand if they think the activity is a job and stay seated if they think it's a hobby.
- For each activity, ask one or two students to explain their answer.
  1. **Painting**
  2. **Caring for people in a hospital**
  3. **Sewing a dress**
  4. **Cooking meals for many people**
  5. **Playing baseball**
  6. **Teaching a class**
  7. **Fixing computers**
  8. **Singing**
  9. **Planting vegetables**
  10. **Flying a plane**