

CAREER TALK: Dialogue with Job Examples (A2-B1)

Lately, Dumi has been thinking a lot about his future. He does not know what job he wants to do. His best friend, Mayamiko, tells him that he still has enough time to think about his adult life but Dumi's parents do not have the same opinion. They want him to stop wasting his time on social media and video games and start focusing on his studies. Dumi needs to talk to someone neutral. He goes to see the school's career adviser, Mr. Kwacha.

MR KWACHA: Hello Dumisani! Welcome! How are you young man? What can I do for you?

DUMI: Hello Mr. Kwacha. I'm fine, thank you. I would like to talk to you about my future job.

MR. KWACHA: Feel free, you are most welcome. I am the career adviser of this school and it is my job to do that. Do you have questions concerning any specific career field or you really want to start from the beginning?

DUMI: I would like to explore several career options. My father is a doctor and he wants me to do medical studies but I'm poor at scientific subjects so I don't think that I'm well-equipped for such an academic path.

MR. KWACHA: Oh, I see. What about Mathematics? Are you good at Mathematics Dumisani? You can be an accountant or a businessman. There are plenty of job opportunities in these money-making fields.

DUMI: No, Sir. I'm not good at Maths. My results are average and I almost failed my last exam.

MY KWACHA: (*Scratching his head with a worried look*). Oh, I see. You are the Humanities type. You must be good at English then. You can be a teacher or a journalist. You need excellent language skills in order to do these jobs.

DUMI: (*Shaking his head*). No Sir, my level of writing in English is awful. I can speak very well but I don't know how to write. I don't see how I can teach English to someone, let alone write a story or an article in this difficult language.

MR KWACHA: My, my, my. I am surprised. Your oral English is very good indeed but I need to see how you write. Maybe, you are just being too hard on yourself. What about History and Geography? Surely, these subjects should interest you.

DUMI: No Sir, these subjects are boring and I don't know what I can do with them later on. I don't want to become a teacher.

MR. KWACHA: A lot of things Dumisani, a lot! You can do a lot of things with a History or Geography degree. You can be a lawyer, a human rights activist or a landscape architect.

DUMI: Oh, that's interesting. I didn't know that one can become a lawyer by being good at History.

MR. KWACHA: Yes, these disciplines are similar. You spend your time analysing facts and arguing about them for hours.

DUMI: Oh, okay, I get it.

MR. KWACHA: But young man, there must be something you are good at. There must be. Sports? Art? What are you good at Dumisani?

DUMI: My school results are average Sir. I really don't know what I am good at. I am good at nothing.

MR. KWACHA: No, Dumisani. Do not think like that. We are all born with special qualities. It takes a lot of time to discover our life's purpose. Do not worry.

DUMI: But Sir, I'm getting older and it's about time I started seriously thinking about my future.

MR KWACHA: Do not worry. The answer is not going to come to you like that. You need to experience life first. Go back home and observe what you really like doing without being pushed. Come back and see me in a two weeks' time.

DUMI: Thank you Sir. I will do just that.

MR KWACHA: See you young man. Goodbye.

DUMI: Goodbye.

(Fourteen days elapse and Dumi goes to see the career adviser.)

MR: KWACHA: Hello Dumisani. You are back.

DUMI: Hello Mr. Kwacha. Yes, I've had time to think about what you said.

MR. KWACHA: So, what did you discover?

DUMI: I like listening to music Sir. I might become a musician Sir, maybe a composer. I am good with words. Someone can just check the spelling for me if there are too many mistakes.

MR. KWACHA: What else do you like doing?

DUMI: I like watching music videos Sir. I could become a videographer or a choreographer. I can be quite good because I dance quite a lot. I'm always teaching my siblings how to dance too! I'm quite good at that!

MR. KWACHA: Dumisani, listen to me. These are not real jobs.

DUMI: Why Sir? The music videos I watched are there because someone produced them; the songs are there because someone sang them.

MR. KWACHA: Dumisani, listen to me. Those people are extremely talented. Those jobs are for the chosen few, for the stars. You might not be one of them.

DUMI: What if I was one of them Sir? What if? Mr. Kwacha, you asked me two weeks ago to observe what I do without being pushed. This is what I do. My school grades are poor anyway. I think I know what I want to do in the future now. I will study hard to improve my English skills so that I can write better lyrics and powerful letters to future business partners and investors. I will double my efforts in Mathematics so that I can manage my finances like a pro when I am a manager of my own music firm. Well, I will also travel a lot as a singer, dancer and musician so I need to know my Geography and History very well. Thank you Mr. Kwacha. Thank you for helping me. I know what I want to do in the future now.

(A smiling Mr. Kwacha leads Dumisani to the door).

MR. KWACHA: Well, well, well Dumisani...I didn't know you could make up your mind so soon. Good for you then young man. I am surprised. Good luck with all your endeavours! You will make it.

DUMI: Thank you once again Sir. My parents are going to be so proud of me but most of all, I will stop worrying from now on. I will just work hard at making my dreams come true. Goodbye Sir and thank you once again.

MR. KWACHA: Goodbye young man.



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