

Real Job or Hoax?



Some of these careers are real. Some are invented. Can you tell which?

Read each job. Circle Real or Hoax. Then pick two and explain how you know.

1	Planetarium Manager Runs shows and programs about space for visitors.	☐ Real ☐ Hoax
2	Cloud Sculptor Shapes clouds into designs for outdoor events.	☐ Real ☐ Hoax
3	Stilt Walker Performs on stilts at events and parades.	☐ Real ☐ Hoax
4	State-Certified Ghost Inspector Checks buildings for ghosts before they can be sold.	☐ Real ☐ Hoax
5	Ombuds Listens to concerns and helps solve problems fairly.	☐ Real ☐ Hoax
6	Energy Auditor Inspector Checks buildings to find where energy is wasted.	☐ Real ☐ Hoax
7	Gravity Calibration Technician Adjusts gravity in school gyms for basketball season.	☐ Real ☐ Hoax
8	Dog Groomer Washes, trims and styles dogs.	☐ Real ☐ Hoax
9	Archaeologist Digs up and studies objects from the past.	☐ Real ☐ Hoax
10	Professional Bubble Wrap Inspector Tests every bubble before shipping.	☐ Real ☐ Hoax

How do you know? Pick two jobs and explain.

Look It Up:

Pick one real job and find its [Career Profile](#) in Pathful. What would someone need to learn to do it?

Educator Page

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Time

20 to 25 minutes

Grades

9 to 12

Best For

April 1, as a warm-up or a game

What Students Will Do

Students decide whether each of ten job titles is real or invented, explain how they know, and then look up one real job in Pathful.

Before You Start

- Print one page per student. The educator page is for you only.
- Do not reveal the answers until students have written their reasons.

How to Run It

1. (2 to 3 min) Explain the game: some of these jobs are real and some are made up.
2. (5 to 8 min) Students read the ten jobs and circle Real or Hoax for each.
3. (5 to 8 min) In pairs, students compare answers and pick two jobs to explain how they know.
4. (5 to 8 min) Reveal the answers using the key below. Ask which hoax almost fooled them.
5. (3 to 5 min) Look it up: each student picks one real job and finds its [Career Profile](#) in Pathful.

Answer Key

Real (all six have Career Profiles in Pathful): 1 Planetarium Manager, 3 Stilt Walker, 5 Ombuds, 6 Energy Auditor Inspector, 8 Dog Groomer, 9 Archaeologist. Hoax: 2 Cloud Sculptor, 4 State-Certified Ghost Inspector, 7 Gravity Calibration Technician, 10 Professional Bubble Wrap Inspector.

Discussion Prompts

- Which real job surprised you most?
- What made a hoax job easy or hard to spot?
- How can you check whether a job is real?

Support and Extend

- Support: read the jobs aloud and let students vote with a show of hands before writing.
- Extend: students invent their own hoax job and a real one, and a partner has to tell which is which.
- This is also a chance to practice checking a source before trusting a claim.