

What are apprenticeships? Would an apprenticeship suit me?

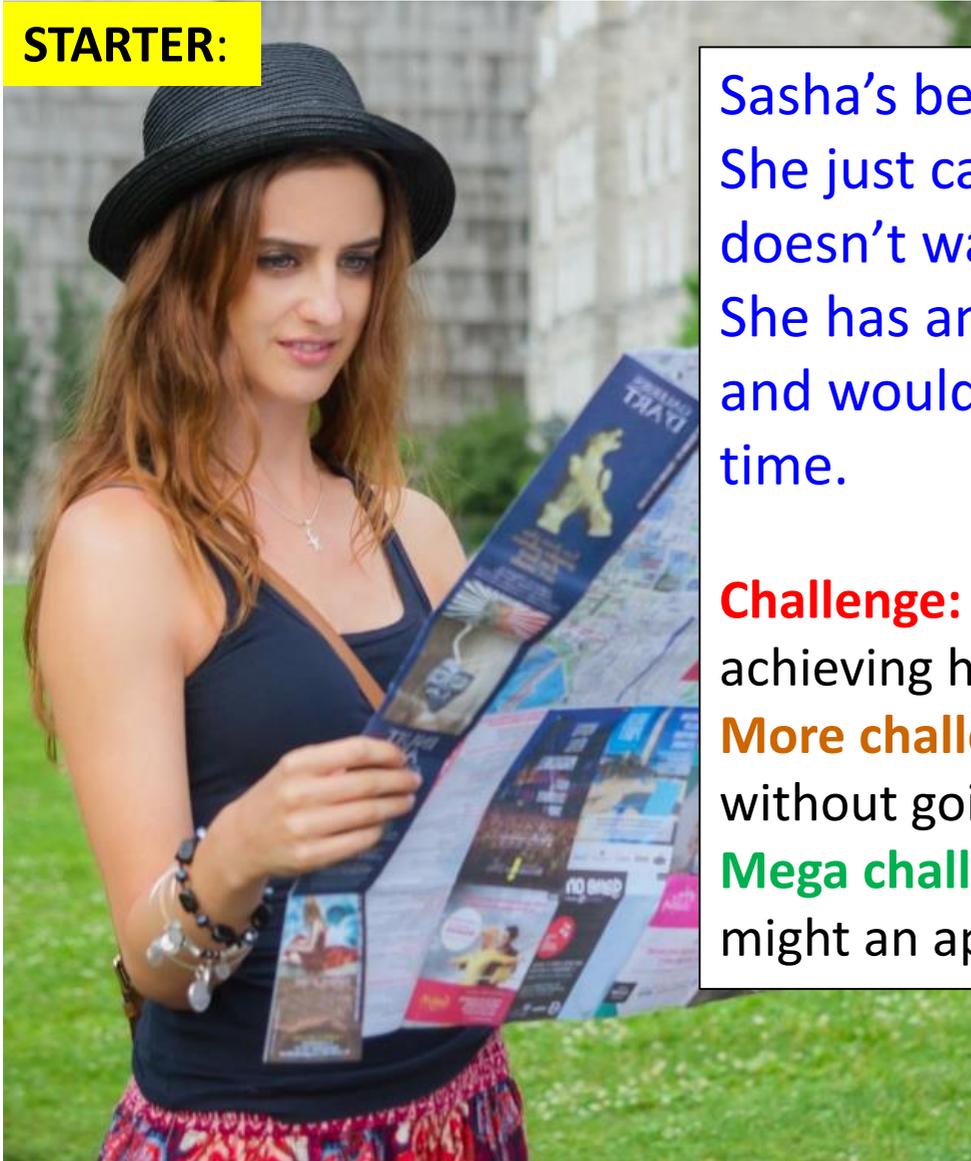
STARTER:

Sasha's been to look around a few universities. She just can't seem to picture herself at any and doesn't want to saddle herself with a huge loan. She has ambitions to run a restaurant one day and would rather be working than studying full time.

Challenge: What could Sasha do to work towards achieving her dream?

More challenging: Could Sasha achieve her dream without going to university? How?

Mega challenge: Define the term apprenticeship. Why might an apprenticeship suit Sasha?



What are apprenticeships? Would an apprenticeship suit me?

KEY WORDS:

Apprenticeship – A job with training. Having a job that includes gaining recognised qualifications and essential skills whilst you are working and earning a wage.

Learning Outcomes :

Identify what the different types of apprenticeships are and the reasons these might suit a lot of different people.

Describe the different reasons apprenticeships might be the right career path for many types of people as well as the pros and cons of this career route.

Explain in detail the pros and cons of apprenticeships as well as how to apply for them.

Task 1: Watch the clip and choose some challenge questions to answer on a word document/piece of paper:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kyHi709hjRU> (Video 1)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dj-JrMjxivA> (Video 2)

Challenge

1. What exams do apprentices have to pass in order to show transferable skills? (video 1)
2. How many industries are offering apprenticeships? (video 1)
3. What percentage of apprentices said that they were happy with their course? (video 2)

More Challenging

1. Why might some people think apprenticeships were an easy option, and why are they NOT like this in real life?
2. Why do you think there is such a disparity between graduates and apprentices when it comes to course satisfaction? Suggest three possible reasons.
3. Do you think that both videos give a balanced view? Explain your thinking.

Mega Challenge

1. What are the main factors influencing your personal opinion on apprenticeships?
2. Why do you think there is such a disparity between graduates and apprentices when it comes to course satisfaction? Suggest as many reasons as you can think of and rank them in order of importance.
3. Which could be more 'future-proof' in your opinion: degree courses or apprenticeships? Explain your reasoning in full.

Task 2:

We will now find out a little more about the different types of apprenticeships, the pros and cons and how we can apply for them. Read through the worksheet provided and answer the questions below.



<p>Apprenticeships</p> <p>What are apprenticeships?</p> <p>An apprenticeship is a mix of studying and on-the-job training in a particular field such as engineering, transport, childcare, catering, design and many others. As an apprentice, you will work alongside more senior and experienced staff and earn a wage. You get a certain amount of time in your working week for study, usually one day per week. This study is done as part of a college or university course.</p> <p>The length of apprenticeships varies from 1 up to 5 years, depending on the particular apprenticeship level. For example, a level 2 apprenticeship (equivalent to a GCSE) would take less time than a level 7 apprenticeship (equivalent to a degree). You may even gain other qualifications during your apprenticeship, such as a diploma. After completing an apprenticeship, you will be qualified and experienced in your chosen field.</p> <p>What are the pros and cons of apprenticeships?</p> <p>One of the big advantages of apprenticeships is that you get paid to learn (the average pay for an apprentice is £400 per month), including holiday pay. This is in stark contrast to people who choose to go to university and have to pay £9,000 per year in tuition fees alone, as well as finding money for rent and living costs. In many cases an apprenticeship can be a sound financial decision – but that's not the only benefit of an apprenticeship. Your employability is greatly increased by doing an apprenticeship because of the practical skills and experience that you have gained over the course of the apprenticeship. You have access to good support through your training providers. You are also trained in skills that employers actually want, and your chances of progressing in your field are good if you have completed your apprenticeship successfully. 90% of apprentices go on to find</p> 	 <p>employment in their field.</p> <p>The disadvantages of an apprenticeship include lower pay than some other workers, despite being similarly qualified in some cases. This can lead to low job satisfaction and potentially feeling undervalued. You also may find that you are limited in the kind of work you see allowed to do as an apprentice, as well as limiting yourself to a particular field of work at a young age. Apprenticeships can also be quite stressful for some young people who might not be used to the expectations of professional environments, particularly coming straight out of school. So, while apprenticeships won't be the right choice for everyone, they are a good choice for many.</p> <p>How do I apply for an apprenticeship?</p> <p>Firstly, you need to decide what sector you want to work in. This is a very big decision and you need to spend some serious time thinking about your own aims for your career. You need to research any potential sectors thoroughly to find out whether an apprenticeship in that area of employment is right for you. You also need to find out whether there are any available apprenticeships in your chosen career. You can search for available apprenticeships in your area using the Apprenticeship Search at www.gov.uk. If you are not sure what area you would like to work in, you can run a search just using your postcode and see what positions are available. You would still need to research each of these very carefully in order to decide which would provide the right environment for you.</p> <p>Once you have found an apprenticeship you want to apply for, and have researched it carefully, you should contact the training provider, either directly or by following the instructions online if there are any. Some</p> 	<p>apprenticeships can be applied for directly through www.gov.uk; others are applied for via training centres or the employers' website. You can use resources like the National Careers Service to help you with your application, including personal statements and details of relevant information.</p> <p>What if I decide the apprenticeship isn't for me?</p> <p>Legally, an apprenticeship cannot be terminated earlier than the agreed period of its duration (this might be a matter of months or it might be until a certain qualification is gained). If an employer ends an apprenticeship early then you have the right to claim breach of contract. However, if you are the one who wants to end the apprenticeship before its agreed duration, you may be able to do so without having to pay fees in most cases.</p> <p>It is usually a bad idea to drop out of an apprenticeship. This is because it looks bad on your CV and sends a negative message to your potential future employers. Certainly, you could argue that it shows you're passionate and uncompromising, but many employers would interpret your dropping out as uncommitted, unreliable and other less desirable traits. A better idea if you are not enjoying your apprenticeship is to seek help from your training provider (not your employer). They may be able to switch your apprenticeship to a different employer, or negotiate better terms with your employer on your behalf.</p> <p>Do I have to be 16 to get an apprenticeship?</p> <p>The minimum age for an apprenticeship is 16, but there is no maximum age. If you are over 24 years old when applying for your apprenticeship, there is at least government funding available and you may have to finance it yourself.</p> <p>Thanks to http://www.gov.uk (ID: 7411880420311661971200)</p>
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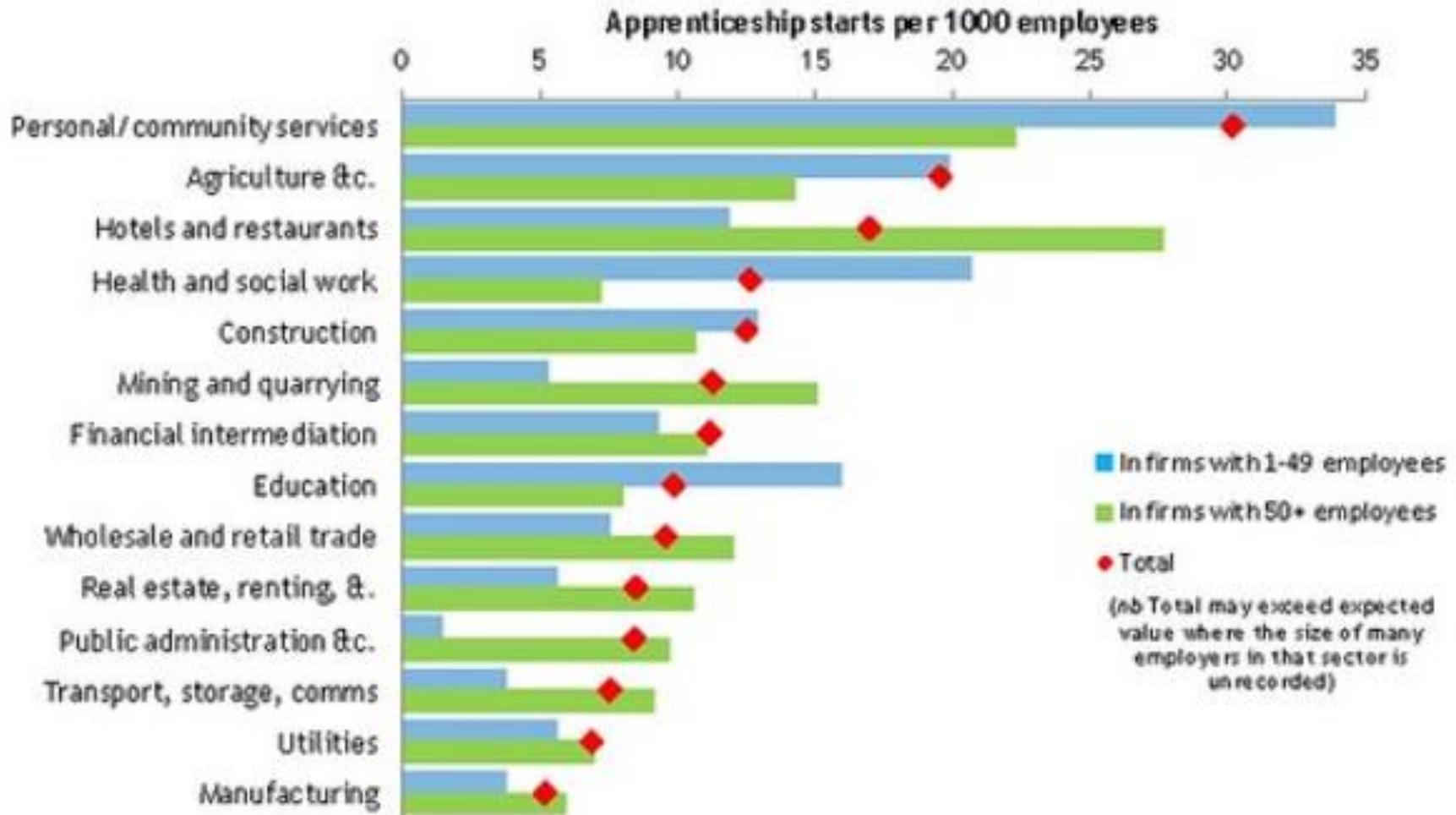
Questions:

How many of you like the sound of apprenticeships so far? Why?

Does anyone here know anyone who is currently in an apprenticeship? Can you tell us about what they're doing and what they think of it?

New apprentices: 2,473 16-18: 1,024 19-24: 939 25+: 510

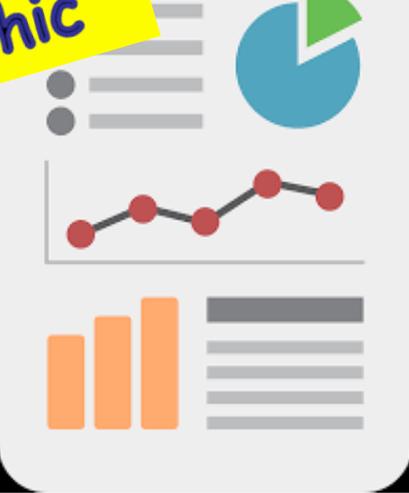
New apprentices per 1000 employees by sector and size



Let's take a look above at the sectors which employ many apprentices in the UK. Does any of this information surprise you? Why? Apprenticeships have a tradition reputation of being in a 'trade' (like plastering, engineering, construction etc). Does this graph support that idea?



Example of an infographic



Infographic Task

Challenge: Using your information sheet & notes, create an infographic all about apprenticeships. Get creative and ensure you detail what they are and how to apply.

More challenging: Your infographic must include detailed information on all subheadings on your sheet, with new key terminology used in the correct context.

Mega challenging: As above, but your infographic must also include the pros and cons – in detail and questions you think people may want to ask themselves before they apply.