

Grouping Jobs by Data, People, and Things

All jobs are also grouped by *what* you will spend most of your time working with. These groups are called “Data,” “People,” and “Things.” Jobs in every career interest area have “Data, People, and Things” work. To begin to understand this kind of job grouping, read the definitions for each group below.



Data Careers

Some people work with data. “Data” includes things like numbers, words, symbols, ideas, and concepts. Workers might put together lots of data to discover facts and develop new ideas or interpretations of ideas. They may gather, organize, and classify information to write reports or act on the data in some way. They examine and evaluate knowledge and information. Data work can involve computing, using math to figure out solutions, or planning actions. People who work with data like to do research and gather facts. They read, do tests or experiments, or interview people. They might also do research to make judgments. They might develop new ways to do things or create new products. People may also express their ideas artistically by designing, writing, or drawing. “Troubleshooting” is a type of data work. It means identifying and solving problems.



People Careers

Some people like careers working with others. (“People” work can also include working with animals if the animal is treated on an individual basis.) This work includes advising, counseling, or guiding other people to help them with problems. It can also mean exchanging ideas, information, and opinions with others to make decisions or draw conclusions. A lot of people work involves teaching others. It can include entertaining other people or persuading them to act in a certain way. Some workers supervise other people by leading their activities. People work also includes serving—acting on the needs or requests of other people.



Things Careers

Some people like to work with things. They spend a lot of time with machines, equipment, or tools. They might like to set up things. That means they prepare the equipment for work. Others might like to operate equipment. They start and stop it and control and adjust it while they work. Others might also tend machines or equipment while the machines are on. They may have to manipulate machines in certain ways to perform a job. Other “things” work includes driving or flying a variety of vehicles. Things work can also involve adjusting or repairing tools, machinery, and equipment.