

Moving up the ladder 人往高处走

Vocabulary: Social mobility 词汇: 社会流动性

What did you want to be when you were growing up? A teacher? A doctor? An astronaut? What do you need to do to achieve your **dream job**?

Perhaps you think that studying well and then going on to work hard will get you the career you want. We are constantly taught that our hard work will eventually **pay off**.



But a government survey has shown that hard work is not the only thing that will help you **to move up the ladder**. Two thirds of people believe that who you know matters more than what you know when it comes to **social mobility**. So are the **connections** that you have more important than your education?

Seventy six per cent of people in the survey believed that **family background** is important in **influencing** your chances of success. They believe that if you are **privileged** from birth, you are more likely to have a successful career, especially if your family is **wealthy**. Are some people just handed life **on a plate**?

Even if you don't have a privileged background, the people you know can still make a difference to your career. **Networking** is a skill which is encouraged by many **careers advisers**. Some companies run networking **workshops** to try and encourage staff to meet other people, **to communicate** and build **relationships**. It's a valuable skill.

But the survey also revealed something quite interesting. Although most people believed that **networks** are more important than education, many people put their own career success down to **talent**, rather than background. 41% of people said that their parents' **income** had influenced their life, but at the same time, another 41% believed that they had **engineered** their own success.

So which is the more important, what you know or who you know? It seems that by working hard and making lots of **connections**, the answer may be that both are very important.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. What phrase means 'to improve your social status'?
2. What adjective means 'having an advantage'?
3. Is this statement true or false? *Three quarters of people believe that family background influences your success in life.*
4. What do some careers advisers encourage people to do?
5. What percentage of people feel that they are responsible for their own success?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Being a pop star would be my _____ job. I would absolutely love it!

nightmare	dream	fun	great
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2. Alice knows everyone in this building. She's got really good _____.

backgrounds	networks	connections	advisers
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3. In my opinion, hard work will help you move up the social _____.

climber	scale	network	ladder
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4. Your paintings are fantastic. You obviously have a lot of _____.

talent	income	wealth	status
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5. How much do you earn a year? What is your annual _____?

Incoming	outgoing	income	outcome
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. What phrase means 'to improve your social status'? **To move up the ladder.**
2. What adjective means 'having an advantage'? **Privileged.**
3. Is this statement true or false? *Three quarters of people believe that family background influences your success in life.* **True.**
4. What do some careers advisers encourage people to do? **To network.**
5. What percentage of people feel that they are responsible for their own success? **41%.**

Exercise 练习

1. Being a pop star would be my **dream** job. I would absolutely love it!
2. Alice knows everyone in this building. She's got really good **connections**.
3. In my opinion, hard work will help you move up the social **ladder**.
4. Your paintings are fantastic. You obviously have a lot of **talent**.
5. How much do you earn a year? What is your annual **income**?

Glossary 词汇表

dream job	理想工作
pay off	得到回报
to move up the ladder	向上走
social mobility	社会流动性
connections	关系
family background	家庭背景
influencing	影响
privileged	享受特别待遇的，幸运的
wealthy	富有的
on a plate	现成的
networking	交际
careers advisers	就业指导员
workshops	研习班
to communicate	交流
relationships	关系
networks	关系网
talent	才华，能力
income	收入
engineered	安排，策划