

## 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

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