

Ready for a Reality Check?

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Did you know? Watch television for clues about working and you might be entertained. But watch TV to make career decisions, and you might not be ready for prime time. Television portrayals of the American workplace are frequently exciting but they do not reflect the real world. To help separate the fact from the fiction, you need “real” career information. If you want to expand your options and uncover the truth about careers that interest you, then you need some reality tools. Several of the tools you need are found at the [California Career Zone](http://www.cacareerzone.org) site at www.cacareerzone.org. Once you arrive at the site, follow the directions, and answer the questions outlined below. You will soon find out if your career choices are preparing you for the reality you seek.

1. **Click** on *Assess Yourself*. Then **complete** the *Quick Assessment*.

2. **Write down** the three words that target your interests?

3. Review the list of jobs that suit your interests and list two or three that appeal to you.

4. Look at the menu bar at the top of the page you are working on. Click on *Reality Check*, enter the site, and then **select** #1 *Get a Reality Check*.
5. **Proceed** through the 10 screens, answering all the questions. **Print** your final *Reality Check Total Expense Sheet*.
6. Next, **click** on the *Kind of Occupations that Match this Annual Salary* button. **Select** the *education level* you plan to get, and the *occupational category* that most interests you.
7. From the *Occupation Results List*, **select** one occupation you would like to know more about.
8. Review the information and **answer** these questions:
What occupation did you choose? _____
Which job tasks look most interesting to you? _____
Why is the outlook information useful? _____
Which one of the job openings sounded most appealing to you? _____

9. How will this information help you in your career search? _____

10. How are you getting ready for reality? _____

