

# Benefits of a Summer Job or Part-time Job

"Why do you want the job?" For most people, the first thing that comes to mind is "I NEED MONEY", but there are many other benefits!

According to a 2005 book by Jeylan T. Mortimer, one of the key areas where working students excel is in confidence. After all, confidence, by definition, really just means an ability to rely on (count on) yourself. In order to build true confidence, you have to put yourself into unfamiliar territory and learn how to survive and become successful there.

Staying at home all summer may be a great way to relax, but it will not contribute to your time-management skills. Working will help you develop those skills. Time-management consists in deciding what is important to accomplish in a day and learning how to juggle those things to make it happen. This means prioritizing, planning and learning to get a realistic sense of how much you can actually accomplish. The best way to develop this skill is through practice.

Maybe you are already sure about what you want to do as a future career, but most people go through a lot of indecision and change their minds many times before choosing a career. Working at your local coffee shop may not help you determine what it will be like to be a doctor, but you will find out whether you like to work with people and whether you can work quickly and efficiently under pressure. If you are wondering what your skills are, working a couple of part-time summer jobs will help you see your likes and dislikes, evaluate your strengths and work on your weaknesses.

As many teenagers, you spend a lot of time with people your own age. In a job, you are likely to be working with a range of very different people. This is not only good for your social skills, it is also a good point on your resume. And when future interviewers start calling your references, you can be sure that an older co-worker or supervisor will already know how to talk about your strengths to the interviewer in a professional way.

A summer job also builds your sense of personal responsibility and helps you earn your own money, which is a liberating and positive experience. You will learn that you do not automatically have disposable incomes and that money comes from hard work. You will also learn that your day-to-day choices (for example, buying clothes, food, going out etc.) have a financial impact.

Learning to be responsible is a lesson that you learn when working. In most part-time jobs, the worker is responsible for serving the public or producing a product. A manager supervises some aspects of the job, but no one is by your side every moment to check you are doing the job.

When you begin your first job, you will have to learn to take orders without questioning them or developing a negative attitude. The orders may come from a person who is not much older, but having a negative outlook (attitude) is the quickest way to lose your job. Learning to respect authority and developing a team approach to working, will have a positive impact on your future career.

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