



Unit 2 Occupations

Before you read

Think about these questions. What do you think is the best job in the world? Why?

Read the article

The Coolest Job in the World

¹ John Harrison works for an ice cream company. He has a very cool job. He tastes the ice cream! He also tests the ice cream in other ways. If John doesn't say the ice cream is OK, then the company doesn't sell it.

² First he looks at the ice cream. He checks that everything is mixed together well. For example, if there are more nuts at the bottom than at the top, then the company doesn't sell it. Then he does a taste test. He takes a bite and moves the ice cream all around in his mouth. He wants to taste all the flavors in each kind of ice cream. No flavor should be stronger than the others. John also checks the texture. Ice cream should always be smooth and creamy.

³ John doesn't need a lot of special things to do his job. But there is one thing that he always has with him: a gold spoon! He uses a gold spoon—never wood or plastic—to taste the ice cream because gold doesn't change the taste of the food.

⁴ So how does someone learn to be an ice cream taster? John Harrison says that ice cream is part of his family history. When he was a teenager, he worked at his uncle's ice cream company and began to learn about ice cream. But many universities have programs in food science, and that's a good way to start, too.

⁵ John is also always looking for new ways to combine flavors to make new kinds of ice cream. This means he's always working—even when he's eating new desserts at restaurants. John loves his job. He agrees: it really *is* the coolest job in the world!



Build your reading skills: Identifying main ideas

Read the article again. Identify the main idea of each paragraph. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. Paragraph 1
 - a. The company only sells the ice cream if John makes it.
 - b. The company only sells the ice cream if John says it is OK.
2. Paragraph 2
 - a. John tests the ice cream one way.
 - b. John tests the ice cream in many ways.
3. Paragraph 3
 - a. John uses a gold spoon to do his job.
 - b. John likes the taste of the gold spoon.
4. Paragraph 4
 - a. You can take classes or have on-the-job experience become an ice cream taster.
 - b. You have to study food science to become an ice cream taster.
5. Paragraph 5
 - a. John is always thinking about ways to make new kinds of ice cream.
 - b. John never thinks about his job when he isn't at work.

Check your comprehension

Circle the letter of the answer that completes each sentence.

1. If John says the ice cream is OK, then the company _____ it.
 - a. buys
 - b. sells
 - c. tastes
2. When John tests ice cream, he wants to taste _____.
 - a. all the flavors in it
 - b. the strongest flavor
 - c. every part of his mouth
3. Ice cream should always be _____.
 - a. hard
 - b. icy
 - c. creamy
4. Ice cream has always been a part of _____.
 - a. his family's life
 - b. the university program
 - c. the restaurant menu
5. John thinks his job is _____.
 - a. cold
 - b. great
 - c. difficult