

I've always been good at ...

1.2 goals

- talk about things you're good at
- describe and evaluate skills



LISTENING

- 1 1.2 Listen to Darya, Cian and Hyun-Ae talking about things they're good at.
 - 1 Match each person to a picture A-C.
 - 2 Does each person talk about their working life, their life outside work, or both?
- 2 1.2 Listen again. Find out:
 - 1 when Darya realised what she was good at.
 - 2 how she uses her ability now.
 - 3 who Cian has represented in competitions.
 - 4 how long a race stage can last.
 - 5 how Hyun-Ae's childhood influenced her.
 - 6 what she's doing now.

GRAMMAR

Present perfect simple and progressive

- 3 Do you think anyone can learn to be good at these things? Talk together.
- 4 Read examples 1-5 from the recording. Match them with descriptions a-e.
 - 1 I've always **been** good with numbers.
 - 2 I've **done** a couple of degrees, in psychology and social work.
 - 3 I've recently **passed** my final engineering exams.
 - 4 I've **been sailing** pretty consistently since I was nine.
 - 5 I've **been studying** in the evenings so I'm quite tired.

You can use the **present perfect simple**:

- a to summarise experiences in a period up to now. ____
 - b to describe finished events with a result now. ____
 - c to describe **states** which started in the past and continue up to now. ____
- Verbs that commonly describe **states** include *be, know, understand, love, hate*, etc. They are not usually used in progressive forms.

You can use the **present perfect progressive**:

- d to describe longer or repeated activities - finished or not - with a result now. ____
- e to describe **activities** which started in the past and are still happening now. ____

- 5 a Complete Esmeralda's profile using the present perfect simple or progressive.



Esmeralda Vallejo, artist

I ¹ _____ always _____ (be) interested in painting but I ² _____ only _____ (do) it seriously for about five years. During that time, I ³ _____ (complete) various courses in techniques and materials and I ⁴ _____ (win) a few prizes in regional competitions. I'm not rich - not at all! - but since last year I ⁵ _____ (advertise) my work on the Internet and I now sell enough of my work to make a living, so I ⁶ _____ (give up) my part-time office job and I ⁷ _____ (become) a full-time artist. I'm feeling really excited about my work at the moment as I ⁸ _____ (experiment) with some new ideas - though I think some of my regular clients might be a bit shocked at the results!

Grammar reference and practice, p131

- b Think of something you're good at. Write a paragraph like this about it, using the present perfect simple and progressive.

SPEAKING

- 6 a In groups, talk about the things you're good at and what you've done.
b Get into new groups. Tell each other about the people in your first group.

VOCABULARY

Skills

- 1 a Look at the expressions from the recording in the box. Which group 1–3 describes:
a people skills? b physical abilities? c mental skills?

- 1 be **physically fit**, be **strong**, have plenty of **endurance**
2 be **good with numbers**, be able to **think logically**, be **focused**
3 be a **good listener**, be an **effective communicator**, have **the ability to compromise**


- b Now add three more expressions from the box to each of the groups, 1–3.

- be able to **delegate** have **good eyesight** have a **good sense of balance**
be able to **manage groups** have a lot of **self-discipline** have **quick reflexes**
have plenty of **imagination** be **sensitive to** people's feelings be **well organised**

- 2 Talk together. Which skills do you think Darya, Cian and Hyun-Ae probably have?

- 3 a Look at the **highlighted** expressions in 1a and 1b. Which words do you think are stressed? Which are not stressed? Underline the stressed syllables.

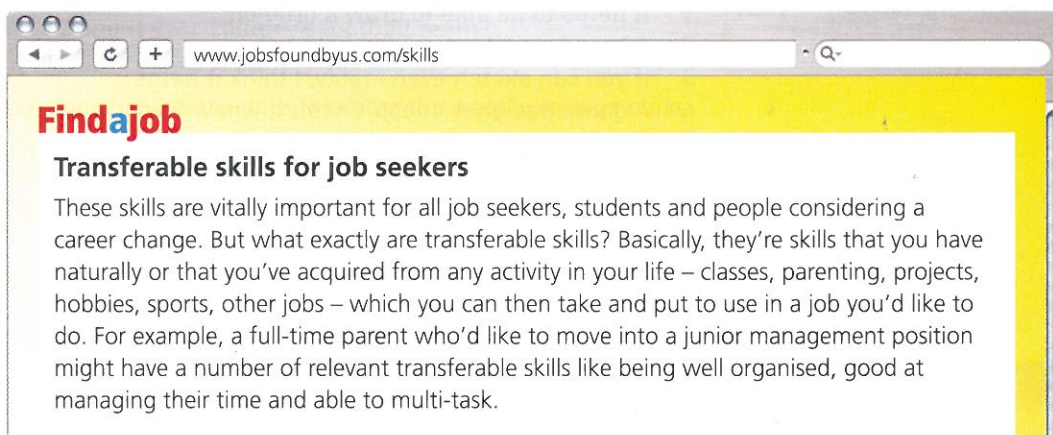
be **good with numbers**

- b  1.3 Listen and look at the script on p141 to check.

- c What kinds of words are usually:

- 1 stressed? *nouns*, ...
2 not stressed? *pronouns*, ...

- 4 Read part of a website for job seekers. What are transferable skills? Does everyone have them?



Find a job

Transferable skills for job seekers

These skills are vitally important for all job seekers, students and people considering a career change. But what exactly are transferable skills? Basically, they're skills that you have naturally or that you've acquired from any activity in your life – classes, parenting, projects, hobbies, sports, other jobs – which you can then take and put to use in a job you'd like to do. For example, a full-time parent who'd like to move into a junior management position might have a number of relevant transferable skills like being well organised, good at managing their time and able to multi-task.

- 5 a Work alone. What transferable skills do you have that would be relevant to these jobs?

- a high-rise window cleaner
- a landscape gardener
- the mayor of a small town
- a stock market trader
- a tele-sales agent
- a writer

Decide which job would be most suitable for you.

- b In groups, explain your ideas from 5a. Who would be the best person for each job?

I could be a high-rise window cleaner. I've always been quite sporty so I've got a good sense of balance.

Really? I'd be terrified of falling ...

Well, Cian's physically fit ... And he must have a good sense of balance.

PRONUNCIATION

Stress

SPEAKING