

Future expectations

Task 1. What are your three biggest dreams for the future? Write them in the bubbles below.



Now share with your partner.

Task 2. Now discuss the questions below.

- Why is it sometimes hard to follow your dreams?
- Do your family or community support you in your dreams?
- Have you ever felt pressure to follow someone else's expectations?

Task 3. Listen to four teenagers talking about their dreams and complete the table.

	What is their dream?	What do their families want them to do instead?
1. Amy		
2. Omar		
3. Elya		
4. Tobias		

Task 4. Listen again and answer the questions.

Amy

1. Why is Amy expected to take over the family business?
2. What do Amy's parents say about her dream job?
3. How does Amy feel about her parents' expectations of her?

Omar

4. Why doesn't Omar want to follow in his family's footsteps?
5. What do Omar's parents think about his dream?
6. How does Omar feel towards his parents?

Elya

7. What responsibilities does Elya have at home?
8. How do these responsibilities affect Elya's goals?
9. What does Elya want her family to understand?

Tobias

10. What have Tobias's grandparents been doing to help him?
11. Why doesn't Tobias want to follow his grandparents' expectations of him?
12. What is Tobias worried about?

Task 5. Reflect on the teenagers' experiences and discuss the following questions with your partner.

- a) Have you ever had a similar experience to any of the teenagers you just listened to?
- b) What advice would you give to each teenager?
- c) Is it easy for young people to follow their passions? Why/Why not?
- d) How much should families be involved in young people's life choices?
- e) What's more important, doing what you really love or doing something that makes other people happy? Explain your answer.

Task 6. Useful language

Match the categories to the phrases.

a. showing that you are actively listening	b. explaining the problem
c. expressing how you feel	d. encouraging someone to open up
1.	2.
You seem really worried. Do you want to talk about it? What's on your mind? How do you feel about it?	I feel as if ... I feel really torn because ... I wish they'd understand that ...
3.	4.
The thing is ... On the one hand ..., but on the other hand ... What makes it difficult is ...	You must be feeling ... It sounds as if what's most important to you is ... (+ verb+ing) Have you thought about ... (+ verb+ing)?

Task 7. Speaking

Work with a partner. Decide who is A and who is B. Act out the roles.

	Student A	Student B
1. Amy	You are Amy. Explain to your friend how you feel about the pressure to take over your family's restaurant and why you want to pursue a career as a human rights lawyer. Share your concerns about disappointing your parents.	You are Amy's friend. Listen to her concerns and offer advice. Try to help her weigh the options and find a way to explain her dreams to her parents.
2. Omar	You are Omar's friend. Encourage him to open up about his dreams and suggest ways he might convince his parents to take his interest in photography seriously.	You are Omar. Talk to your friend about your parents' expectations for you to study medicine. Explain why you don't want to become a doctor and talk about your passion for photography.