

Future expectations

Amy

So, my parents have a restaurant that's been in the family for generations. It's pretty successful, and everyone expects me to take over when I leave school. I know it would be such a shame to sell the business that my great-grandparents set up. But honestly, running a restaurant isn't my dream at all. I've always wanted to be a lawyer, a human rights lawyer. It's a big passion of mine, and I really want to go to university to take the law exams. My parents say that it's going to be really demanding, and that it's years of study before you can even start earning money – if you can get a job because it's so competitive. But running a restaurant is really hard work too, and long hours. I don't want to disappoint my parents, but I also don't want to spend my life doing something that isn't for me.

Omar

My parents are both doctors, so of course they want me to go to university and study medicine and become a doctor too. I mean, it's the obvious path, right? Following in the family footsteps. They say it's a good career, and they've started to give me advice about applying to the best medical schools. But I really don't want to be a doctor. I've seen how stressful their jobs are. You literally have people's lives in your hands, and that's too much responsibility for me. What I'd actually like to do is photography. Going out with my camera, capturing moments and telling stories through pictures. This is something I'd really like to pursue, you know, some kind of photojournalism. My parents just think it's a hobby and that I won't be able to earn a living through art. It's hard because I don't want to let them down, but I also want to follow my own dreams.

Elya

I have a really big family, and because my parents work a lot, everyone expects me to look after my younger siblings after school. You know, making dinner, helping with homework, getting everyone to bed on time, all that sort of thing. My parents are grateful, definitely, but they tell me that it's my responsibility because I'm the eldest. Don't get me wrong, I adore my siblings, but it feels like too much responsibility. It doesn't leave me any time to focus on my studies so I can pass my exams. I want to go to university and become a vet. I've always loved animals, but I think my parents just see me as the one who should always be there for my family. I hope I can make them see that my education is important too.

Tobias

I live with my grandparents, and they've been saving up so I can go to university. They're always talking about how important a good education is and how they didn't get the chance to go. And they've sacrificed a lot to be able to pay the tuition fees. And I'm really grateful for this, but I just don't want to go! I'm not really into studying, and the idea of sitting in lectures all day kills me! Instead, I really want to set up my own business as soon as I leave school. I love fashion and I'm learning how to make clothes from YouTube videos. They're pretty good, and I've already made a bit of money selling them online. My grandparents think it's just for a bit of extra money, but I don't know how to tell them that I'm serious about becoming a fashion designer.