

# Maths for cool jobs



Lots of people think that maths will be used just for school, but actually numbers can help us all the way through our lives – especially for getting some exciting jobs.

Think about the people below and how they use maths in their jobs.

Try to come up with as many ways as possible that maths helps them in their fun jobs. You might be surprised how exciting numbers can be!

We've given you one example to help you out.

## Bobby Seagull



Bobby is a maths teacher and a TV presenter.

In his spare time he is a huge football fan and loves following West Ham United.

### Uses maths for:

- Keeping his busy schedule under control
- Making sure his radio shows run for the right amount of time – estimating lengths of features
- Looking after his income and making sure he is paid correctly
- Looking at the league table when following West Ham
- Booking the best value tickets for football games
- Talking to his friends about the game statistics – for example he tells his friend that West Ham were on top in the game because they have had 62% of possession

## Jessica Ennis-Hill



Jessica is an athlete and businesswoman, who competed at the Olympics for team GB.

In Heptathlon she was the 2012 Olympic champion. She is also a three-time

world champion. After retiring from athletics, she formed her own fitness company and she is also very busy with lots of commitments like media appearances and photo shoots.

### Uses maths for:

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## Chloe the cabin crew member



Uses maths for:

## Nathan the nurse



Uses maths for:

## Harry the hairdresser



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## Friedrich the fashion designer



Uses maths for:

## Vera the video game designer



Uses maths for:

## Sriti the sports journalist



Uses maths for:

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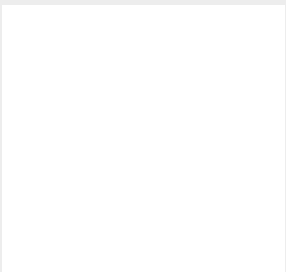


## Mo the movie producer



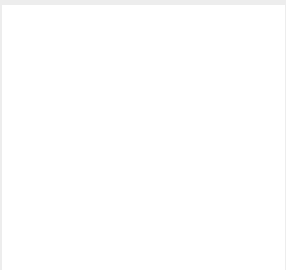
Uses maths for:

## My dream job



Draw your dream job! What is it? How would you use maths?

## My family member's job



Draw a family member's job! What is it? How do they use maths?"

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# Maths for cool jobs

## Example answers

Number  
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**These pages are for adults helping children with this activity**

We have provided some possible answers, but this is not a full list as there are so many possible uses of maths. In general, any reasonable response should be encouraged.

**To help your child, use the following to give pointers:**

- How is time used in the job?
- Is money needed – to buy stock or materials?
- Is data useful in any of them – like information using numbers, league tables, graphs or charts?
- Would you need to take measurements such as weights, heights or lengths?
- Where can you see shapes?
- Are there any calculations needed? Is it useful to add things together or divide things up? Is a percentage needed anywhere?

### Possible answers

#### Jessica Ennis-Hill

- Understanding the rankings of points scored in a decathlon competition
- Knowing about the distances she can throw or jump
- Using time to keep measuring her best hurdles times
- Planning lots of journeys so she can keep to all her commitments

#### Chloe the cabin crew member

- Knowing time differences
- Handling money to sell refreshments
- Converting currencies
- Counting supplies/stock for in-flight meals

#### Nathan the nurse

- Working out prescriptions and drug calculations
- Understanding patient data
- Taking patient readings such as blood pressure
- Understanding the probability of treatments having side effects

#### Harry the hairdresser

- Understanding shape
- Using measurements – e.g. if the customer would like two inches trimmed
- Mixing colours and dyes using the correct ratio
- Making appointments and scheduling enough time for each customer

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## Example answers



These pages are for adults helping children with this activity

### Possible answers continued

#### Friedrich the fashion designer

- Measuring materials to make sure the garment fits properly
- Using shapes in designs
- Using scales to increase and decrease sizes
- Working out how much money he can make and how much he needs to spend on materials

#### Vera the video game designer

- Using angles, shapes and geometry in gameplay design
- Using numbers and data for coding
- Scaling and proportion to make realistic settings and characters
- Using probability to assess chances of a level being completed

#### Sriti the sports journalist

- Understanding statistics – for example when she writes that a player has scored 50% more goals than anyone else
- Managing her time to get all her articles written
- Filing expenses for when she has been to sports games
- Estimating if what she wants to say will fit in her one-minute TV slot

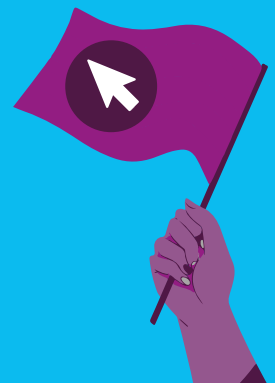
#### Mo the movie producer

- Keeping the movie to budget
- Negotiating contracts with big stars
- Managing the filming schedule
- Dealing with project timelines – for example, how long will scripting take?

### For adults

One of the best ways you can support your children's learning is to make sure you are confident with your numbers. Why not [click here to try the National Numeracy Challenge](#).

It's really helpful for us to get feedback on our work so that we can make sure we are helping people in the best way. You can tell us how Number Confidence Week helped you by [clicking here to complete this short survey](#).



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