

SKILLED TRADE OR NO SKILLED TRADE???

Instruction for students: Which occupations are considered a skilled trade and have a Provincially-recognized apprenticeship program attached to them? Work with a partner to sort the list of occupations below into two columns, based on your collective “general knowledge.”

(Note to teachers: This works well if you can provide the occupations as a laminated deck of cards to sort.)

Which occupations are considered a Skilled Trade?	Which occupations are not considered a skilled trade?

Occupations:

firefighter	hairstylist	Fashion designer	animal trainer	scientist
industrial mechanic millwright	pool and hot tub installer	truck and coach technician	Early childhood educator	refrigeration and air condition mechanic
horticultural technician	sheet metal worker	photographer	psychiatrist	security guard
dressmaker	waiter	flight attendant	secretary	roofer
salesperson	teacher	cook	clerk	electrician
arborist	actor	engineer	drywall finisher	brick and stone mason
plumber	nurse	framer	carpenter	architect
general machinist	film editor	Bartender	dental assistant	massage therapist
welder	auto service technician	telemarketer	restaurant hostess	cabinetmaker
baker	tool and die maker	cashier	painter-decorator	motorcycle mechanic

Discussion:

1. What do skilled trades occupations have in common? (Most of them are hands-on, they require a definite skill set, often require problem-solving skills, and can best be learned through apprenticeship).
2. Looking at the list of skilled trades, what broad categories do you see? Introduce the four sectors: construction, motive power, industrial, and service.
3. Review the four sectors apprenticeship from oyap.com (Choosing a Trade or Trades at a Glance sections). Assign students to highlight five trades they are unfamiliar with and provide a brief description of each. Students could also be asked to select and/or rank 3 trades they could themselves potentially pursue.