

Introduction: raising learners' awareness

The number of different jobs within the IT industry is large and growing. Learners find it difficult to get a picture of the opportunities available to them, as the types of jobs available are changing rapidly.

Many businesses today employ both IT specialists and IT users. The Employer challenges offer insights into the work of both. They also show IT in action, both in non-traditional contexts such as an orchestra and a farming co-operative.

It is important to encourage learners to explore and consider the various possibilities in the IT industry. The Employer challenges may inspire them to consider work beyond the obvious areas.

IT professionals follow many different career paths. Many develop their skills and knowledge through a combination of learning on the job and attending specialised courses that are sponsored by their employer. So an important first step is to find a job in IT that will provide experience and further training. Learners need to understand this. They also need to develop their understanding of the skills and attitudes that employers seek when recruiting IT staff.