

Should you follow in your family's footsteps?

A Lauren Hill

Both my parents are doctors – my mum's a GP and my dad's a surgeon. So, as a child, I think it seemed natural to me that I too would study medicine at college, and go on to have a career as a doctor. But my parents certainly never suggested that they would want me to carry on the family tradition, and I think they were secretly pleased when, after university, I wandered first into a university teaching job and then into company law. Things definitely worked out for the best because I wouldn't have coped with the unsociable hours my parents worked nor with the enormous responsibilities. There are times, though, when I wonder what being a doctor would have been like. If only so at parties I could receive admiration and respect, instead of being regarded as uninspiring and unimaginative.

B Zoe Mackintosh

My dad started his business back in 1980. He buys and sells fruit and vegetables – not to customers on the street, but to other traders. It's a business-to-business operation. When I was a student, I was broke, so my dad offered me a part-time job to help with my finances. I accepted. But it wasn't until I was in my mid-twenties that I decided to join the family business. After completing my degree, I worked in a number of PR firms in different roles for a while. I wanted to gain some experience in other fields first, and this has allowed me to bring a fresh perspective to the business. When I suggested joining the family company, my dad was really surprised. He actually tried to put me off at first – he knows more than anyone how much hard work is involved, not to mention the long hours, whereas my mum tried to talk me into a high-status career, such as medicine or accounting, like all my friends. They're both convinced I made the right decision now, though.

C Max Howard

For many people breaking into the desirable world of television can seem impossible and it can seem that there's no hope of ever getting an opportunity. But because I'd grown up with it, this world felt familiar and easily accessible. My father was a well-known television presenter and my mother made TV documentaries. They were determined, however, that I should make it on my own and deliberately avoided opening any doors for me. I studied journalism and had a brief spell as a TV news reporter on a local TV station. I now work as a producer for an independent TV production company. The world of media has changed enormously since my parents' day but their skill in finding the heart of an issue and presenting it as a compelling story is still very relevant. I've taken after my parents in that respect, as I seem to have a natural talent for this.

D Rob Wilson

My father is a private investigator, specialising in tracking down people selling fake designer goods. From the age of twelve, I was enlisted to make undercover buys from market traders. I would buy T-shirts and sunglasses and I would get paid for that. It seemed like the easiest way in the world to make money but it never occurred to me that this early training would be so valuable. My dream was to become a stand-up comedian, which I had some success at, but not enough to pay the bills. Through one of my dad's contacts I started working as a private investigator in the field of intellectual property and copyright. Eventually I set up my own business specialising in protecting the rights of musicians and other artists. At that time I didn't understand how important my father's reputation would be for my success – people trust me.

Vocabulary

phrasal verbs

6 Match the underlined phrasal verbs in the article to meanings 1–8.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 persuade | 5 continue |
| 2 establish/create | 6 be similar to |
| 3 discourage | 7 enter |
| 4 succeed | 8 develop/have a good result |

7 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- Do your parents expect you to make it on your own?
- Which member of your family do you most take after?
- Do you think it's important to carry on family traditions?
- Do your family try to put you off doing things?
- Have your parents ever talked you into doing something?