

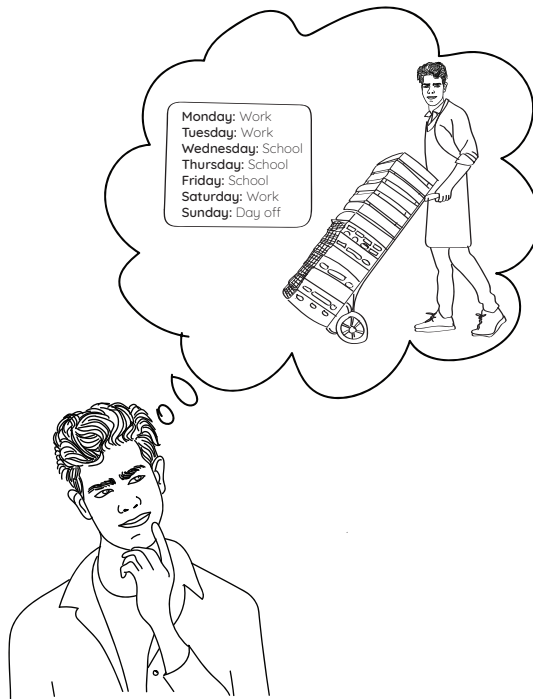


Amir Looks for a Job



Written and Illustrated by Lauren Piovesan

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ESLREADS.COM

Amir Looks for a Job Level 4

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Author: Lauren Piovesan

Illustrator: Lauren Piovesan

Editor: Lynette Lingard

This story has been checked for cultural appropriateness by Iman El-Mohammad and Mohyeddine El-Mohammad, members of the Australian-Syrian community.

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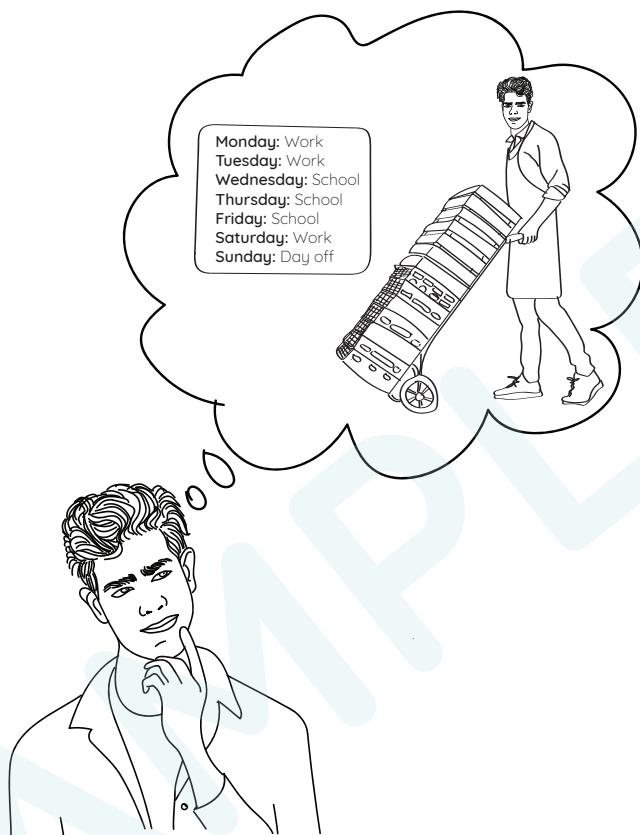


Amir, his younger sister Yara and his mum Farida had been living in their new country for over a year. They were content there, but recently, Amir's grandma back home had become ill. She had been attending a lot of appointments and buying expensive medicines to fight her illness.



Amir desperately wanted to help his grandma. However, he didn't know what to do because he still really wanted to attend school.

"I can't leave school yet because that's going to help me earn more money in the future," he thought. Suddenly, Amir remembered his friend who worked part-time in a restaurant.



“Maybe I can get a part-time job too,” thought Amir as he brainstormed the different kinds of jobs he might be suitable for. Amir hadn’t worked in his new country yet, but he had plenty of experience working back home. In one of his jobs, he had worked as a shelf-filler at a local grocery store.

“Maybe I could find a similar job here,” he thought excitedly.



Amir's excitement faded when he realised that he didn't have a clue how to look for a job in this country. It was a lot easier back home because he had lots of family and friends he could ask for help. For instance, his dad's friend had owned the store at his previous job. However, it was different here. In this country, Amir was starting from scratch.



Amir thought about his dilemma on his walk to school.

Sitting in class that day, he found it difficult to focus as he was too busy wracking his brain about who he could ask for help. He was determined to help grandma as soon as possible. Amir's teacher was kind and helpful.

"I'll ask her," he thought.

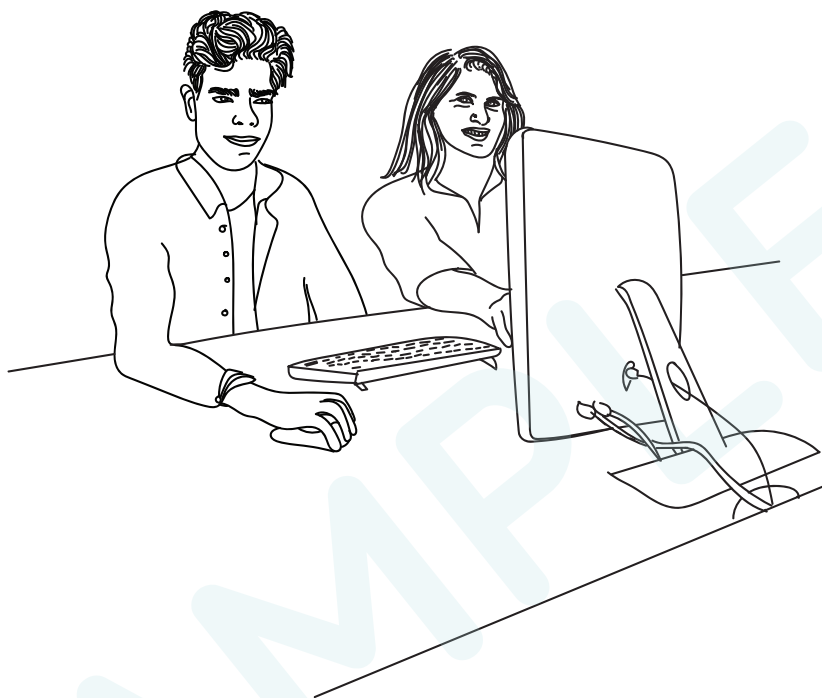


Amir's teacher explained the application process. "First, you need to write a résumé, which lists all of your work experience, education, skills and referees. Then, you need to look at job advertisements online and choose one that you have suitable skills for. Once you find a good fit, write a cover letter about why you're the best person for the job."



“Wow that seems like a tonne of work,” thought Amir feeling a little overwhelmed. Luckily, his teacher had recommended going to the community centre for assistance.

“They have volunteers who can work with you to write a résumé and apply for a job,” said his teacher. Amir felt a little uneasy about going, but he knew he would need help.

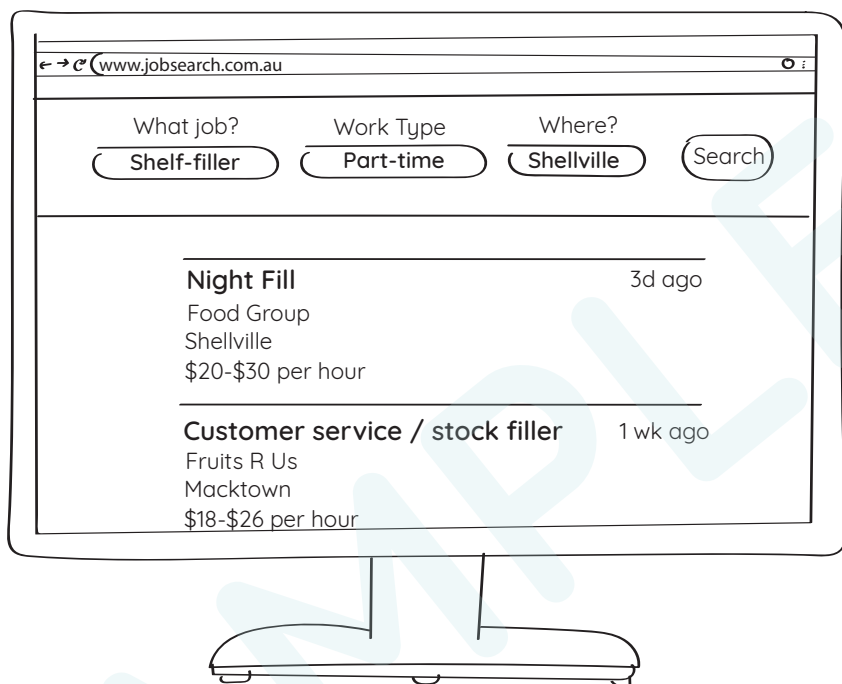


Amir met a friendly woman with a kind smile called Meera, and she helped him write a résumé. On the résumé, he had to include lots of information in dot point form.

“It’s because on average, an employer looks at a résumé for only 6 seconds! So you need to make sure it’s short and includes the most important information,” explained Meera.



Amir listed his work experience, education, skills and referees on the résumé. Once he had typed up his résumé and it looked professional, Meera showed him how to use a popular website to search for jobs. She showed him how he could filter details like location and job type so that he could easily find the job advertisements for suitable positions.



After looking carefully at the job advertisements, Amir chose grocery stores which were nearby. Meera then helped him skim the job ads for the skills and experience that the employers were looking for.

“I have experience carrying out all of the duties on this job ad,” he thought looking at its description.

Night Fill

- Food Group
- Eastown, FOQ
- Part-time

Company

Food Group is a local, specialist grocery store importing the best quality goods from all around the world. With one in every state, we have something for everyone.

Role Description & Duties

Starting in the afternoons or evenings, your work in restocking our shelves is vital in keeping the store ticking and our customers happy. Regular use of store equipment including pallet jacks, cutting tools, PPE for cold areas as required will be tools provided to support you.

Skills

- Customer service
- Teamwork
- Willing to learn
- Reliable and punctual

Requirements

- Forklift license preferred
- Night fill experience preferred

Availability

Monday, Thursday and Friday from 6pm-11pm.

To apply, send your résumé and cover letter to Jessica Arnold at jessica@foodgroup.com.au

He felt confident that he would be able to land one of these jobs. Next, Meera and Amir brainstormed examples of when he had used skills like customer service and teamwork at school and in previous jobs. They used this information to write a tailored cover letter that addressed all of the employer's requirements.



Amir felt satisfied with his job applications and was sure that he would hear back soon. However, after two weeks, Amir still hadn't heard a word! "What on Earth is going on?" he wondered. He decided to call the stores to see if the jobs had been filled. It turned out that every single employer had hired other applicants! Amir couldn't believe it.



“What did I do wrong?” Amir thought with disappointment. He thought he had a real chance of being hired for at least one of those jobs.

“This is not as easy as I thought it would be,” he thought as he ruminated about his grandma again.

“How am I going to earn money now?” he worried.



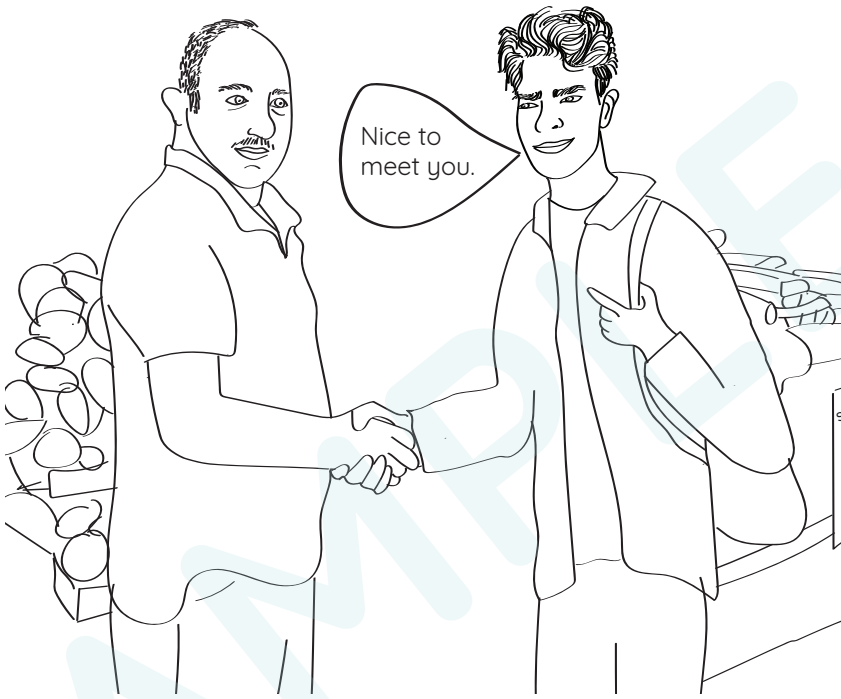
The next morning, Amir was walking to school with his close friend, Sami. He was still feeling down about not getting any of the positions that he applied for. Sami noticed that Amir seemed upset. “What’s wrong?” asked Sami sympathetically. Amir told Sami all about the job-hunt issue. “Why didn’t you say you were looking for a job!” exclaimed Sami.



"My uncle needs an employee to stack shelves and move produce in his fruit shop!" Sami continued.

"Wow, that sounds too good to be true!" Amir thought in disbelief.

"Come with me after school and meet my uncle if you like," Sami suggested. "Yes please!" said Amir eagerly.



After school that day, Sami waited for Amir and they walked to his uncle's fruit shop together. Sami introduced Amir to his uncle, the owner of the fruit shop. They shook hands firmly.

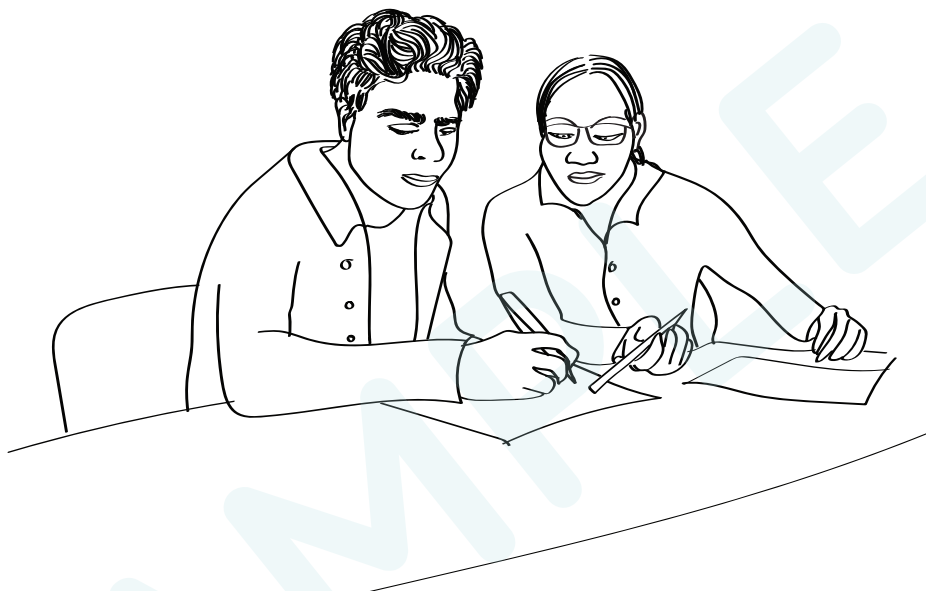
"Nice to meet you Fadi," Amir said politely.

"Do you speak Lebanese Arabic?" Fadi asked.

Amir nodded. He had lived in Lebanon for a year.



Fadi smiled approvingly and invited Amir to come for a job interview the next day. Amir had never done a job interview before! “What do I do? What am I going to wear? What is he going to ask?” he thought, biting his lip. Amir decided to be proactive and seek answers to his questions. This interview was a huge opportunity and there was no room for error!



At school, Amir decided to ask his kind teacher for help again. Thankfully, she gave him a list of 10 questions that he should expect to be asked in a job interview.

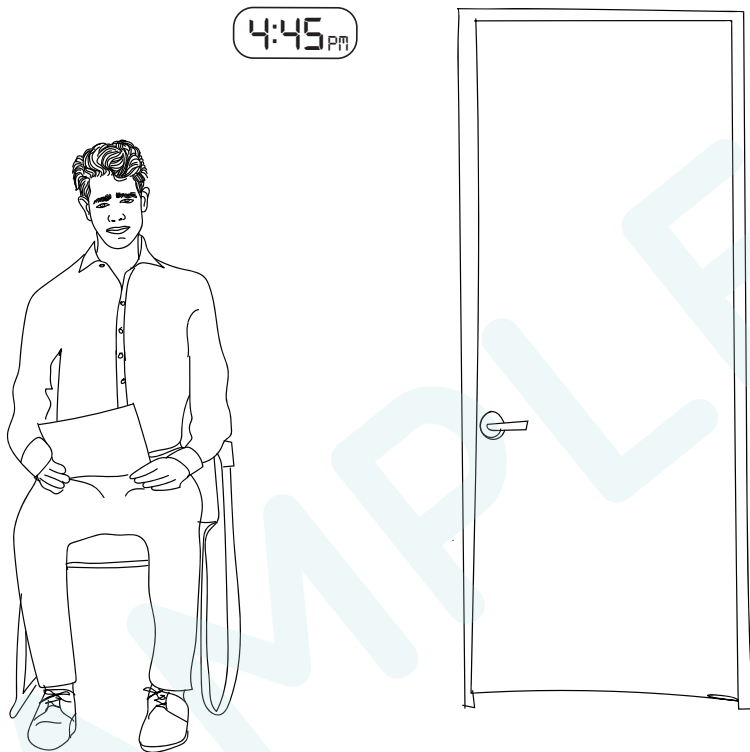
“You should jot down answers for these questions and practise them,” she suggested.

“Thank you!” yelled Amir as he bolted out of the classroom.



Amir carefully wrote his answers to each question, making sure he gave some good examples and added lots of detail. He practised them aloud repeatedly. He even began to recall the answers without referring to his paper! After a few more run throughs, Amir thought, “Bring it on!”

Next, he looked in his wardrobe and chose a suitable outfit.



On the day of the job interview, Amir was shaking like a leaf. He put on the clothes that he had picked out the previous night, and took some big, deep breaths.

“I can do this,” he thought to himself. He had wisely planned his journey before he left, arriving at the shop 15 minutes early. Fadi smiled warmly and invited him into his tiny office.



In the interview, Fadi shook Amir's hand and proceeded to ask him a range of questions; everything from skills, to work experience, to what he was hoping for his future. Some of the questions were on Amir's prepared list but others were curve balls! It was difficult to think of answers on the spot, but Amir tried to respond with as much detail as possible.



While the interview was a nerve-wracking experience, Amir was glad that he did it. The day after his interview, Amir's phone rang. He rushed to answer it and heard Fadi's voice on the other end of the line. "Congratulations Amir, you've got the job!" Amir let out a sigh of relief. He was so excited to start his new job and finally help his grandma!

Ana Sees the Doctor



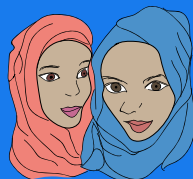
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Jok Feels Stressed



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Zahra Has an Appointment



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Sayed's Test



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Taw Meh Can Speak



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Milad Goes to the Library



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Amir Looks for a Job

Amir's grandma has recently become ill and Amir desperately wants to help her. He decides to look for a job so he can send money to her, but he has no idea where to start and how to find one!
Will Amir be able to find a job and help his grandma?



Pre-Level 1

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3

Level 4