



Career of the week

Entertainer

Entertainers perform for audiences in stage, cabaret or comedy shows.

Average salary (a year): variable

Typical hours (a week): 45 to 47 a week (irregular/evenings/weekends/bank holidays/away from home)

You can get into this job through:

College

It may be useful to do a college course in:

- performing arts
- musical theatre
- drama and theatre
- music

This would help you to develop your talent and learn some of the skills you may need.

Entry requirements

Entry requirements for these courses vary.

Volunteering

Some entertainers are self-taught. To get experience as an entertainer you could:

- take part in open-mic spots or talent competitions
- work at a holiday centre or theme park
- perform in local clubs - you may have to work without pay at first
- take part in street performance or fringe festivals

Direct Application

You can apply directly for jobs. The most important thing is to have a skill or talent that an audience will enjoy.

You do not need formal qualifications, although you may find it useful to have trained in music, dance or acting, perhaps from taking a performing arts course or graded exams.

Skills and knowledge

You'll need:

- persistence and determination
- the ability to use your initiative
- to be flexible and open to change
- to enjoy working with other people
- excellent verbal communication skills
- the ability to understand people's reactions
- knowledge of media production and communication
- the ability to work well with others
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device

You'll need to:

- pass enhanced background checks as you may work with children and vulnerable adults

Day-to-day tasks

In this role you would:

- perform in front of a live audience
- create and rehearse new material
- promote your act
- attend auditions
- maintain equipment, costumes and props
- deal with your finances and administration

Working environment

You could work in a theatre, at a social club, in the community, on a cruise ship, in a hotel or at a client's home.

Your working environment may be outdoors some of the time and you may spend nights away from home.

Career progression

You could move into related roles like entertainment agent, talent spotter, venue management, or TV or radio presenting.