

BEN @ BBC APPRENTICE STORY



TOPIC: Working as an apprentice in the BBC



Overview

Ben is a Broadcast Operator apprentice with the BBC as part of the news gathering crew. This lesson plan has been designed for teachers to use Ben's story to inspire students to discover more about the broad range of apprenticeships available. Through Ben's short film, he shares his story, explaining how he found his apprenticeship. He describes some of his typical tasks and how the balance of working and learning is achieved.

Preparation

Download the 'BBC Ben' resource bundle from the [Amazing Apprenticeships website](https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com), which includes:

- The BBC Ben Lesson Plan
- A supporting PowerPoint slide deck featuring the BBC logo, imagery and key questions for the lesson.
- The student worksheet

Gatsby Benchmarks

- 1 A stable careers programme
- 4 Linking curriculum learning to careers
- 5 Encounters with employers/employees

Aims

- ✓ To develop an understanding of apprenticeships as a pathway for post-16s.
- ✓ To increase awareness of the range of apprenticeship job roles and levels available.

Objectives

Students will be better able to:

- Describe what being an apprentice at the BBC is like.
- Explain the different routes into an apprenticeship and the different types of support available.
- Explore the benefits of being an apprentice.

Warmer (5 minutes)

Use the PowerPoint presentation to display the BBC logo and the discussion question: *What jobs do you think people do at the BBC?* Write their ideas on the board (you will need these for a later stage).

Prediction task (5 mins)

Show students the image of Ben sitting in a BBC office. Ask the question: *What job do you think Ben does?* Ask students to work in pairs to make predictions about what Ben's job is. Encourage some suggestions from the class.



While watching (10 minutes)

Ask the students to read the questions on the **worksheet** before watching. They will need to make notes of their answers while watching the film.

Questions:

What is Ben's job at the BBC?
Broadcast Operator.

When did Ben become interested in television?
When he was a child.

How long has Ben worked at the BBC?
8 months.

What makes every day different for Ben?
He has done so many things including press conferences, filmed the Queen's speech in Parliament, he is called in at any time, gets sent out on location.

How did he hear about the apprenticeship?
Through a technician at his college.

What different placements are available in Ben's apprenticeship?
TV studios, podcasts, newsgathering, radio production, editing, lighting.

How often does Ben study, and what does he study?
After each placement, there is a college week where he learns theory.

What is Ben's top tip for becoming an apprentice?
Just apply!

What are some ways that Ben says your parents can help you?
Sit with you and read to learn about apprenticeships and your options.

How does Ben feel about not going to university?
He doesn't regret his decision and feels that the apprenticeship is equal to if not better than a degree.

After watching (10 minutes)

Ask the students to peer-check answers in pairs or small groups, before whole-class feedback.

Discussion Task 1:

In pairs or small groups, ask students to discuss: *Why do you think Ben loves his apprenticeship so much?*

(Students answer)

What surprised you about the variety of tasks that Ben undertakes?

(Students answer)

Feedback:

Select students to share some ideas. Refer to the warmer activity if relevant vocabulary/ideas emerge.

Discussion Task 2:

Refer to the jobs suggested earlier in the warmer stage and ask the students: *Which job would you like to do at the BBC?*

(Students answer)

Discuss the steps that they could take to explore those job roles in a bit more detail. Answers could include:

- Visit the BBC website
- Follow the BBC on social media
- Speak to the school/college Careers Adviser
- Visit the National Careers Service website

Homework suggestion

Direct students to watch the 'Apprentices are Amazing' film and answer three questions. Watch the film here:

[amazingapprenticeships.com/apprenticeships](https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/apprenticeships)

1. What surprises you most about the different apprenticeship roles featured?
2. What are the benefits of being an apprentice?
3. What steps would you take to explore apprenticeships further?

