

The Schmooze

Stories with a Yiddish Twist

STEM (SCIENCE, TECH, ENGINEERING AND MATH) JOBS: THE ULTIMATE KVELL

by
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Rabbi Benjamin Blech (“The Complete Idiot’s Guide To Learning Yiddish”) wrote, “Even in the Garden of Eden, the divinely created Paradise, Adam and Eve were given a job, ‘to tend it and to guard it.’ Without a task to perform, human beings lose their humanity. Without a purpose in life, life becomes meaningless.”

In 2014, Jacqueline Smith (Business Insider) reported on the 10 most prestigious jobs in America, according to a Harris Poll. 2,537 adults in the U. S. were studied, and they included doctors, military officers, and firefighters.

The respondents were shown a list (“reshime”) of occupations and asked how much prestige each job had.

Harris also asked all adults the following question: Looking at this list of jobs, which ones would you suggest a child think about as a future (“tsukunft”) profession, and which one would you discourage a child from exploring?

A whopping 93% of adults said they’d encourage their kid to pursue a career in engineering. On the list of “most prestigious jobs,” engineer ranked sixth. Larry Shannon-Missal, Managing Editor of The Harris Poll, said, “It’s no secret that STEM (science, tech, engineering and math) jobs are where the money and opportunities are these days.”

Here are the results of the study where adults were asked “Would/Wouldn’t they Encourage a Child to Pursue these 23 Professions and Occupations?”

Engineer (inzhener)	93% ENCOURAGE a child to pursue
Doctor (“doktor”)	91% ENCOURAGE
Scientist (visen-shaftler)	91% ENCOURAGE
Nurse (“krankn-shvester”)	90% ENCOURAGE
Architect (“arkhitekt”)	88% ENCOURAGE
Teacher (“lerer”)	81% ENCOURAGE

Accountant (“khezhben-firer”)	78%	ENCOURAGE
Firefighter (“fayer-lesher”)	77%	ENCOURAGE
Business executive	74%	ENCOURAGE
Lawyer (“advokat”)	69%	ENCOURAGE
Military officer (“ofitsir”)	65%	ENCOURAGE
Journalist (“zhurnalist”)	61%	ENCOURAGE
Police officer (“politsyant”)	60%	ENCOURAGE
Banker (bankir”)	59%	ENCOURAGE
Farmer (“yishuvnik”; “poyer”)	58%	ENCOURAGE
Priest/Minister/Clergy rabbi (“rov”)	57%	ENCOURAGE
Christian priest “der galakh”) Minister (“minister”)		
Athlete	57%	ENCOURAGE
Real estate broker/agent (“grunteygns mekler”)	52%	ENCOURAGE
Stockbroker	46%	ENCOURAGE
Entertainer (“farvaylung”) entertainment	42%	ENCOURAGE
Member of Congress	41%	ENCOURAGE
Actor (“aktyor”)	41%	ENCOURAGE
Union Leader (“farband firer”)	34%	ENCOURAGE

Notice, that the occupations of dentist, pharmacist, optometrist, chemist, and civil servant (“tsivil-dinster”) were omitted.

Way back in 1987, Rabbi Jack Moline (“Growing Up Jewish - Or, why is this book different from all other books?”) took a humorous look at how Jewish parents rate the professions. The professions were rated according to the Menorah Scale, a system in which nine (9) branches was considered the Ultimate Kvell and one branch was considered irreversible Plotz. (Note: The Yiddish word “plotz” means “to split, to burst, to explode.” Ex. “From such a SAT score, I could plotz!”)

So, from 9 branches we get a doctor, an attorney, and the inventor of Sweet-n-Low. From 8 branches we get a stockbroker, medical researcher, and the CEO of a corporation (“korporatsye”). From 7 branches, an entrepreneur (own money), diamond (“diment”) merchant (“soykher”), and a TV anchor.

The jobs that would make one “plotz”: Used car salesman (“farkoyfer”), sexual dysfunction researcher, and Bar Mitzvah tutor. There’s NO RATING for a Pro baseball (“beyzbol”) player, Pro football (“fusbal”) player, and Pro hockey (“hoki”) player. (Only laughter recorded on this question.)

MARJORIE WOLFE wishes her granddaughter, Amanda, good luck on her new job. Marjorie’s favorite funnyman, Mel Brooks, told a wonderful story about working...and retirement:

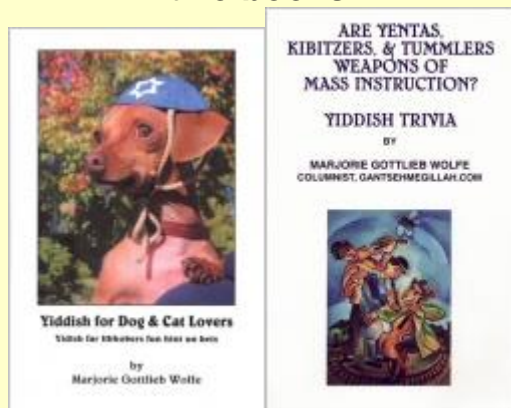
“Do I lift, do I drive, and am I bagging groceries at a very busy supermarket?”

No, I sit with a little pencil and if I have an idea, I write it down. It is light work. I can do that forever.”

Search for Stories Beginning with the Letter

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>M</u>
<u>N</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>Q</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>W</u>		<u>Y</u>	<u>Z</u>

Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe is the author of two books:



"Yiddish for Dog & Cat Lovers" and "Are Yentas, Kibitzers, & Tumblers Weapons of Mass Instruction? Yiddish Trivia." To order a copy, go to her website: MarjorieGottliebWolfe.com

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