

Letters and job application forms

When applying for a job you are competing against a lot of other people so it is important that your application makes an impression and stands out from the others. A properly presented and prepared cover letter and correctly filled in application form will help you.

Applying for a job that has been advertised

In this example, you have seen the following job advertised and you want to apply:

Westfords Ltd.

Require IT Support Officers

40 hours per week – 8.45 am to 5.15 pm.

Photo ID and smart card encoding company are seeking IT support officers.

Responsibilities include upkeep of computers and in-house software and quality assurance of products.

Must have experience with computers.

Knowledge of printers preferred but not essential as full training given.

Apply in writing, sending a covering letter and application form to:

Mr Knight

Westfords Ltd

500 Sample Street

Sample Town

LZX 1XX

Identifying important information in the advert

The following is the important information contained in the advert.

The company

Westfords Ltd. You could look at their website to learn more about the company, if they don't have a website you might be able to find information at your local library. This research might help you to write your application.

Job title and duties

- IT Support Officer
- upkeep of computers and in-house software
- checking consumables and in-house software
- quality assurance of finished products

Qualifications and skills needed

- must have experience with computers
- printer experience preferred but not essential as full training will be given

Pay

- no rate given - ring to check

Hours

- 40 hours per week: Monday to Friday 8.45 am – 5.15 pm

How to apply

- in writing - with a covering letter and a fully completed application form

Filling in application forms

Some job adverts will ask you to fill in an application form. You may need to contact the employer to get a copy of the application form or download it from their website.

Here are some tips on filling in application forms:

- always check the instructions for filling in the application form - for example: whether you have to write in capitals or fill in the form in black ink only
- spell the name of the company correctly
- prepare a draft of the application form and then transfer the information to the actual form - if you're filling it in by hand
- read over the job advert again and make sure the information you include on the form is relevant
- answer all questions and fill in all the boxes
- if there are gaps in your employment history say what you were doing during that time - for example: bringing up your children or working as a volunteer for a charity
- include skills that you have developed outside work
- ask a friend or relative to check your application form before you send it

Writing a covering letter

What to include

Underline the skills in the advert. Write a rough copy of your letter and include the skills underlined. Be positive and emphasise why you are perfect for the job. You should include any relevant skills you have.

Suggested layout

First, give a summary of your skills and experience. Keep it brief and to the point. Then, say when you will be free for an interview. Remember to include your name, address, phone number (if you have one), the date and enclose a copy of your CV.

What to say

Be clear. Don't use a long word if a short one will do. If you have been unemployed for a while, say how you spend your spare time (for example, by doing voluntary work, study and so on). Be honest, don't say you enjoy bungee jumping if you get dizzy standing on a kitchen stool, you will get caught out at an interview. Keep to the facts and try not to oversell yourself.

How to say it

Include the job reference number if there is one in the job details. Enter it below the opening line. For example:

Dear Mrs.....
Re: Job reference 345

Try to find out the name of the person you need to write to. If you start with 'Dear Sir/Madam', end with 'Yours faithfully'. If you start with the person's name (for example, 'Dear Mrs Smith', end with 'Yours sincerely'.

Finally, double-check your spelling and grammar before sending the letter.

How the letter looks

Be neat, whether your letter is handwritten or typed. Leave plenty of space around the edges and a clear space between each paragraph. Use good quality plain paper and envelopes. Check against your rough copy to make sure you have not missed anything. If your application is in audio format check that the content is clear, to the point and easy to understand.

Sign the letter and print your name underneath to make sure it can be read easily. Ask a friend or relative to check over your letter before you send it. Finally, make sure your application arrives on time. If you are posting it, allow for delays. If your application is late, the company might not even consider it and your time will have been wasted.

Jobs4U - careers database

What kind of career are you looking for? Go through the list of jobs beginning with the letter A. From this list choose one job that you think you might like to do?

For that job answer the following questions:

What qualities do you have that would make you good at the job?

What qualifications do you think you need to do this job?

- [Abattoir Operative](#)
- [Access and Recreation Officer](#)
- [Accounting Technician](#)
- [Accounts/Finance Clerk](#)
- [Acoustician](#)
- [Actor](#)
- [Actuary](#)
- [Acupuncturist](#)
- [Administrative Assistant/Administrator](#)
- [Adult Education Organiser](#)
- [Adult Nurse](#)
- [Advertising Account Executive](#)
- [Advertising Account Planner](#)
- [Advertising Art Director](#)
- [Advertising Copywriter](#)
- [Advertising Installer/Bill Poster](#)
- [Advertising Media Planner/Buyer](#)
- [Aerospace Engineer](#)
- [Aerospace Engineering Technician](#)
- [Agent/Manager](#)
- [Agricultural Inspector](#)
- [Agricultural Technical Advisor/Consultant](#)
- [Air Cabin Crew](#)
- [Air Traffic Controller](#)
- [Aircraft Dispatcher](#)
- [Airline Pilot](#)
- [Airport Baggage Handler](#)
- [Alexander Technique Teacher](#)
- [Ambulance Person](#)
- [Anaesthetist](#)
- [Analytical Chemist](#)
- [Anatomical Pathology Technologist](#)
- [Animal Boarding Worker](#)
- [Animal Care Assistant](#)
- [Animal Groomer](#)
- [Animal Physiotherapist](#)
- [Animal Technologist](#)
- [Animal Trainer](#)
- [Animator](#)
- [Antique Dealer](#)
- [Arboriculturist](#)
- [Archaeologist](#)
- [Architect](#)
- [Architectural Technician/Technologist](#)
- [Archivist](#)
- [Armed Forces Musician](#)
- [Army Officer](#)
- [Army Soldier](#)
- [Aromatherapist](#)
- [Art Editor](#)
- [Art Exhibition Organiser](#)
- [Art Therapist](#)
- [Art Valuer](#)
- [Arts Manager](#)
- [Asbestos Removal Worker](#)
- [Assembler \(Light Industry\)](#)
- [Assistance Dog Trainer](#)
- [Assistant Practitioner \(Medical Lab\)](#)
- [Astronaut](#)
- [Astronomer](#)
- [Auctioneer](#)
- [Audio-visual Technician](#)
- [Audiologist](#)
- [Auditor](#)
- [Auto Electrician](#)

Interesting Jobs

On the website www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u/ click on [Find out about different jobs and careers](#) you will find lists of jobs from A – Z.

Go through the lists and choose 3 jobs. Look at what qualities you need to do the job and what qualifications are needed for each job.

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Job Title | |
| Qualities needed | |
| Qualification | |

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|------------------|--|
| Job Title | |
| Qualities needed | |
| Qualification | |

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| Job Title | |
| Qualities needed | |
| Qualification | |

What would your Parent's choose for you?

What job do you think would suit your son or daughter? Why do you think this would suit their personality / interests?

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Job Title | |
| Qualities needed | |
| Qualification | |

Parent signature _____

Student signature _____