



Australian Government

Write a resume

futuredirections

An up-to-date resume is a very important tool in your job search. This worksheet gives you some tips on creating a resume.

What is it?

A resume is a description of your education, paid employment, volunteer activities (including school activities), general interests and personal strengths. Each resume will be slightly different depending on whom it is written for and the style of resume that suits your needs (see page 2 for the different styles). It should be kept up to date.

Resumes can be submitted as paper copy or electronically.

What to include

What you include in a resume depends on your individual career goals and the needs of the employer. A resume provides:

- initial information to an employer to get you an interview
- a summary of your work history, skills, achievements and experience
- information about how you perform in different work situations
- information about what you have accomplished.

A resume should answer the employer's question: 'How will I benefit from employing this person?'

What not to include

- Don't say you have done something that you haven't.
- Don't include anything that relates to your personal life (except contact details).
- Don't include age, height, weight, marital status, number of children, condition of health, or religious or political beliefs (except where religion or political beliefs are important to the position).

- Don't include negative reasons for leaving previous employment such as 'asked to leave' (fired) or 'sick of travelling'.
- Don't focus on any barriers to getting a job.
- Don't make the resume too long.

However, before you start writing, collect all the resources you need.

Resources Checklist

Use this checklist to prepare for writing your resume.

- Job descriptions of past jobs, including part-time work or work experience.
- An action word list to help you write your resume (go to www.myfuture.edu.au for an action word list).
- Copies of performance reviews or reports about tasks undertaken.
- Records of educational achievements.
- Certificates or records of seminars/conferences attended. Include courses undertaken out of school hours (eg swimming and computer courses).
- Letters of appreciation. Don't forget thank you letters or cards you've received.

Handy hints

- Modify your resume for each job you apply for and include your relevant skills.
- Have someone check it before you send it.
- Use good quality A4 paper.
- Don't put too much information on one page.
- Use a simple layout, headings and basic fonts such as Arial.
- There are lots of Internet sites which help, such as:
 - www.myfuture.edu.au
 - www.resume.monster.com.au

Write a resume

RESUME COMPARISON CHART

	REVERSE CHRONOLOGICAL	FUNCTIONAL	COMBINATION
Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most recent work history is listed first Provides a short and snappy picture of where you've been and what you've done 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work experience and skills listed in a way that relates to the strengths important to the employer Focus is on what you have done, not where and when 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combination of reverse chronological and functional resumes Focus is on skills, accomplishments and work history Usually begins with a profile or key skills followed by work history
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easy to write Shows employment history Most commonly used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Highlights accomplishments Groups together similar jobs De-emphasises unstable work history Can use headings featured in a job description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlights relevant skills that are supported by a strong employment record Emphasis is on transferable skills Highlights accomplishments
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasises gaps in employment Doesn't effectively reveal skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doesn't provide a work history No emphasis on loyalty, continuity or recency of experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longer than other formats Work history is usually on the second page
Use when ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Showing career progression Showing continuity in a particular career path 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entering the workforce for the first time or after a long absence Work history is varied or unrelated Changing fields Emphasising skills not used in recent work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each position you have had involved a different job description Demonstrating a depth and range of skills
Don't use if ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You're looking for a job for the first time You have employment gaps You've changed jobs often You're changing careers and your work history does not relate to the job you are applying for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You want to highlight career progression Your recent jobs have had limited responsibilities and functions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience is limited There are large gaps in your employment

Sections of a resume

The section headings of a resume match the job advertisement. The most common headings are:

- contact details
- objectives
- summary of experience
- competencies
- education and training

- work experience
- activities and interests
- referees.

However, there are alternative names that you can use, such as 'career goals' for 'objectives' and 'employment history' for 'work experience'.

The example on pages 3 and 4 shows a 'combination' resume.

Write a resume

Contact details

say who you are and how you can be contacted. Make sure they are up to date and accurate.

Natasha El Domino
38 Elegant Avenue
Tindale SA 5167

Phone: (08) 8555 5555

Own Car and Driving Licence

Objective

tells an employer what position you are seeking, the kind of work you are looking for and the next step of your career path. This section is optional.

Career Objective

I am looking for employment in the clerical/administration field. I enjoy working with people and I am committed to the delivery of quality customer service. I believe my positive attitude and willingness to give 100 per cent will be an asset to your business.

Summary

gives the 'big picture', very briefly, of what you do.

Summary

I am computer literate, have typing skills and experience in filing and reception duties. My communication skills are of an excellent standard. I am highly motivated to succeed, flexible and reliable.

Competencies

are about your abilities and are targeted to the job you are applying for. This section convinces the employer that you are capable of doing the job.

Key Competencies

Administration/Clerical Skills

- Experienced in handling profit and loss reports
- Knowledge of manual payroll duties (taking out tax and doing pays for employees) as well as using MYOB
- Able to work under pressure and prioritise tasks
- Knowledge of computer packages, MS Windows, Word, Publisher, Internet and e-mail
- Sound typing and keyboarding skills
- Able to handle counter enquiries in an efficient and professional manner
- Experienced in writing letters and typing up invoices
- Highly developed organisational and time management skills
- Experienced in general bookkeeping and records keeping
- Able to carry out general office functions
- Knowledge of confidentiality practices
- Experience with the use of multi-line phone system
- Confident telephone voice and manner and experienced in taking accurate telephone messages
- Neat and legible handwriting
- Able to fill orders and forms
- Able to use various office equipment including fax and photocopier

Communication Skills

- Ability to communicate with a variety of people from all levels
- Ability to use commonsense and work through problems
- Experience in training new staff
- High standard of written and oral skills

Education and training

show you have the educational requirements to do the job. Include your most recent educational qualification and subjects you have studied that are relevant to the position.

Education

Currently in Year 12

2002

Tindale East High School

- Business maths
- Child studies
- Nutrition and lifestyle
- Dance

Write a resume

Work experience

explains past and present work activities. It should include full-time, part-time, casual, contract and temporary jobs; self-employment; and positions you have held as a volunteer or student.

Activities and interests

help an employer build a picture of you. Activities and interests also highlight initiative, communication and organisational ability and skills you have gained which may be important if they are relevant to the job. Activities are structured pursuits (eg clubs and voluntary organisations). List the organisation, your role and years of participation. Interests are unstructured individual pursuits (eg sewing, reading, running, football). List the interest and your involvement (ie writing poetry is different from reading it).

Referees

provide details of your experience and can comment on your personal qualities. It is common to include three referees. Provide accurate details of their name, employer; phone number and e-mail address, together with a brief statement explaining how the referee knows you. Make sure you have the referee's permission to provide their name and

Work History

Replacement Receptionist (casual) 2000–Current

HOOVER HOME IMPROVEMENTS

- Typing letters and invoices
- Answering phones and taking messages
- Assisting in payroll—MYOB
- Filing, bookkeeping and banking

Kitchenhand 2000–Current

MAMA'S PIZZA HOUSE

- Customer service both face to face and over the phone
- Taking phone orders
- Making pizzas and pizza dough
- Money handling
- EFTPOS and credit card transactions
- General cleaning

Customer Service Assistant (on call) 1999–2001

JAY'S CATERING

- Taking orders
- Serving food and beverages
- Handling money
- Washing dishes
- Collecting glasses

Clerical Assistant Jan–Sept 2000

PROTOCOL CRASH REPAIRS

- Filing, sorting, photocopying
- Reception duties
- Money handling
- Banking, accounts payments, writing cheques
- Office cleaning
- Doing the payroll—sorting out tax and pays for employees
- General bookkeeping

Interests

- Going to the beach
- Reading
- Cooking
- Looking after young children
- Going out with friends
- Listening to music

Referees

Brian Dash	Josie Plack
Owner	Manager
Protocol Crash Repairs	Mama's Pizza House
Phone: (02) 8922 2222	Phone: (02) 8999 9999

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This worksheet is one of a series which supplements the booklet, Getting A Job – future directions Further information about careers and job searching is available on the Australian online careers site, myfuture, at www.myfuture.edu.au.

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