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| **Myths and Misconceptions about the Trades**  |
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| Have you secretly thought to yourself, "Maybe I would like to learn a trade", but stopped yourself because you thought…* "No, trades are only for: men
* low academic achievers
* those not aspiring to success…

If so, then you may be under the influence of one, or more, myths and misconceptions regarding the trades.According to Dave Chiz, former apprenticeship counselor, there are several prevailing myths that plague the trades.**Myth I:** Trades people have a low IQ, and essentially are slow learners who are channeled into the trades as they are not smart enough for university.**Fact:** Quite the contrary! In fact, according to Dave, it is the "better students" who will fair well in the trades today. Solid academic skills are required to learn the necessary skills and effectively manage today's technology.**Myth 2:** Trades are still based on 19th century "hammer and nail technology", and consequently are easy to learn.**Fact:** While some trades still employ simpler tools, the majority of trades are on the cutting edge of technology and require a solid knowledge/skills base in order to be successful.**Myth 3:** You need a university degree to get a job.**Fact:** A university degree does not guarantee a job! Particularly with today's skills shortages, it is the fully qualified tradesperson who is in demand! In fact, statistics show that more than half of the new jobs in the next decade will occur in trades and technology. With these odds, it may in fact be easier to find work with a trades certification than, for example, an undergraduate degree.So there you have it! If you were thinking about exploring a career in the trades, but thought, "No, they're not for me", think again! With over 200 occupations ranging from graphic design to cosmetology, and everything in between, there could be a trade for you! Check out [Achieve BC](http://www.gov.bc.ca/bvprd/bc/channel.do?action=keyInitiative&channelID=-536880711&navId=NAV_ID_province&userTemplate=achieveBCUser), for more information on the trades.  |

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