

Listening and speaking

Having the time of his life!

1 What is your dream job? Close your eyes and think about it. Then answer the questions. Tell a partner.

- Is the job indoors or outdoors?
- Is it well-paid?
- Does it require special training and/or qualifications?
- Does it involve working with other people?
- Does it involve travel?
- Do you need good communication skills?
- Do you need to be physically strong to do it?

2 Look at the photo. Where are the men? What's their job? Discuss what you think the answers in 1 would be for their job.



3 Read what Giovanni Giudice says about being a gondolier. Why does he like it? What do you think his previous job was?

'You meet people with no problems, and you don't make money on the problems of people, you make money on the happiness of people ..., you meet families when they are together, not when they are getting divorced and all these things.'

4 12.7 Listen to a radio interview with Giovanni. Were you right about his previous job? Answer the questions.

- 1 How old is Giovanni? 26, 36, 46?
- 2 Where does the interviewer come from? What does he say about his country?
- 3 Did Giovanni's parents encourage him to change jobs?
- 4 Complete the sentence:
There are 1,000 _____ in Venice and only 425 _____.
- 5 Why is it difficult to become a gondolier? What does Giovanni call the man who helped him?
- 6 What is the myth about gondoliers?
- 7 When and why does Giovanni want to go to Australia?
- 8 Why is he critical of gondoliers who are unhappy?

5 Giovanni's English is good, but he makes a few mistakes. Work with a partner, read what he says, and correct the underlined words.

- 1 I would never lose this for anything.
- 2 It's ten years I don't touch a book of law anymore.
- 3 If you want to do the 'bloody' gondolier, you find yourself kicked out.
- 4 He's most important person in my adult life, because gave me the job.
- 5 You have to find a very patient girl, who will know what does it mean to be the wife of a gondolier.
- 6 It rings at noon and midnight wherever you will be in the city.

What do you think?

- Do you think Giovanni made the right decision? Why/Why not?
- Is there ever a case for doing a job that you don't particularly enjoy? Why/Why not?

