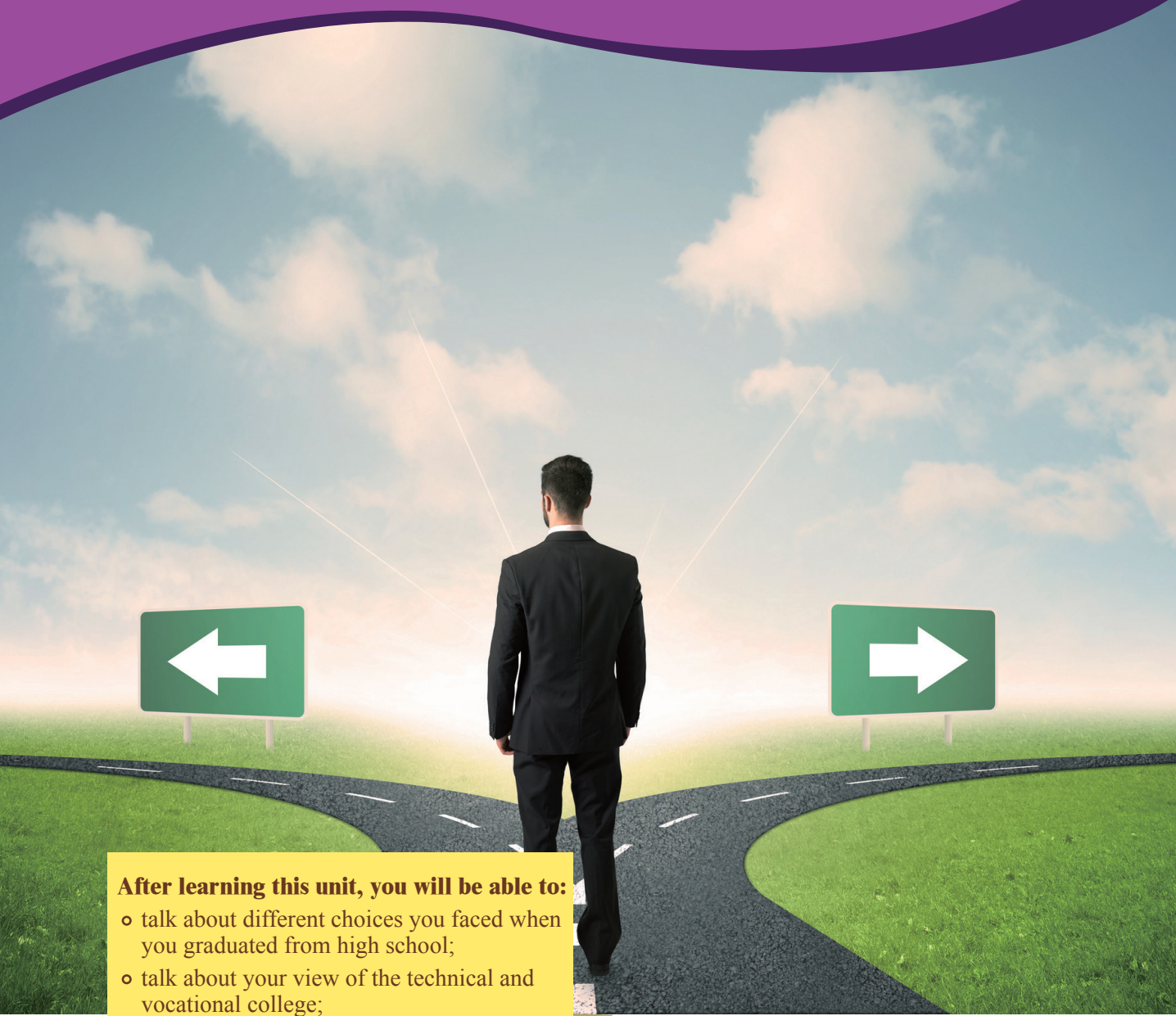


## Unit 1

# My life, my way



**After learning this unit, you will be able to:**

- talk about different choices you faced when you graduated from high school;
- talk about your view of the technical and vocational college;
- make a decision tree for different choices.

**Look at the picture and discuss:**

- 1 What is the biggest choice you've made in your life so far?
- 2 How did that choice influence you?

## Warming up

Read the first part of the poem “The Road Not Taken”. Then discuss the symbolic meaning of “road” and try to predict what the poet will describe in the following part. 🎧

### The Road Not Taken

by Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveller, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

...

## Listening and Speaking

- 1 Listen to the dialogue between Sally and Wallace. The following words, expressions and sentences may help you. 🎧

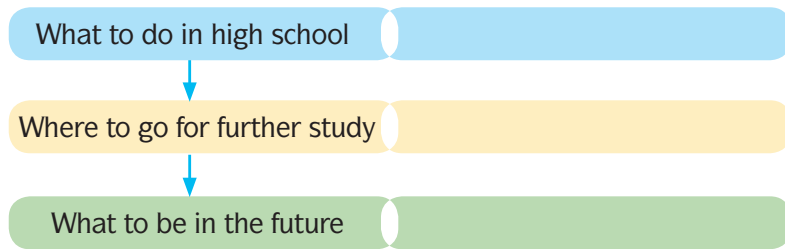
4S shop    sound like    vocational college  
mechanic    have the guts

I got a part-time job at an FAW-Volkswagen 4S shop.  
I'm not doing very well at school, so I have to improve my grades.  
I like cars and I want to be a car mechanic.

### Tips

4S shop指汽车销售服务4S店，包括整车销售 (Sale)、零配件 (Spare part)、售后服务 (Service)、信息反馈 (Survey)。  
FAW是中国第一汽车集团的英文缩写 (First Automotive Works)。

2 Listen again and fill in Wallace's choices. 



3 What is the choice made by Wallace's parents? Do you think it is proper for them to make a decision for Wallace? Discuss with your partner.

4 Read the following words, expressions and sentences. Then listen to the dialogue between Chris and Jim. 

drop out      information technology      code  
pursue      artistic career      stable

He dropped out of university.  
He couldn't even imagine himself writing code all his life.  
He'll pursue an artistic career.

5 Listen again and choose the reasons why Clifford dropped out of university. 

- He didn't like his major.
- He failed the examinations.
- He was unable to afford the tuition fees.
- He didn't want to waste his parents' money.
- He wanted to pursue his dream.
- He didn't get used to college life.

6 Work in pairs and answer the following questions.

1. If you were Clifford, what would you do? Why?
2. Why did you choose your major at college?

## Reading and Vocabulary

- 1 Read the following interview with Emily, a technical and vocational college student. The following words and expressions may help you. 

annual      broadcasting centre      fruitful      clear up  
misconception      handy      rewarding      variety      visual graphics  
productive      powerhouse      see... as      potential

It's been a year since Emily started studying at a technical and vocational college. Today the college is having its annual "Become Your Best Self Day". She is now being interviewed by James, a reporter from the college's broadcasting centre.

James: You've been studying here for a year now. How do you feel about college life?

Emily: I'm happy to say that my first year has been one of the most fruitful times of my life. It's also been a year for clearing up my previous misconceptions about technical and vocational colleges. After studying for a year here, I've come to realise that technical and vocational colleges have unique value. Such colleges prepare students for specific jobs and careers. They offer learning programmes combining an advanced scientific theory with practical work experience. If you know what you want to do, and it's something that requires a fair amount of hands-on training, a technical and vocational college could be the best choice for you. I am very handy, and the learning-while-working mode suits me perfectly.

James: Good to hear that. In fact, technical and vocational colleges are really rewarding for those who find a good fit. Now looking back, what do you think of your high school years?

Emily: Well, first of all, I'm glad I made the choice to come to a technical and vocational college. But sometimes I regret I hadn't worked harder on subjects like maths, physics, chemistry, as well as English. My college offers a wide variety of very useful yet challenging courses, including computer

engineering and visual graphics — which all require a sound knowledge of subjects we studied during high school.

James: I agree. Now the last question, what's your view regarding the future?

Emily: I feel quite hopeful about the future. I think China is becoming one of the greatest and most productive countries in the world. We also need more bright young college graduates to help us develop into the most creative powerhouse in the world. More and more high school graduates will come to see a technical and vocational college as the ideal place to help achieve their future potential. With the education and training we get here, I believe we can realise our own dreams while making great contributions to our country.



**2 Read again and write down the strengths of technical and vocational colleges mentioned in the passage.**

1. They prepare students for specific jobs and careers.
2. \_\_\_\_\_

# Unit 1

3 Fill in the following table with the missing words.

noun	verb	adjective
	suit	
variety		
		creative
		productive
contribution		

4 What is your view about a technical and vocational education? Do you agree with Emily? Discuss with your partner.

## Grammar for Use

Read the following sentences and pay attention to the underlined parts.

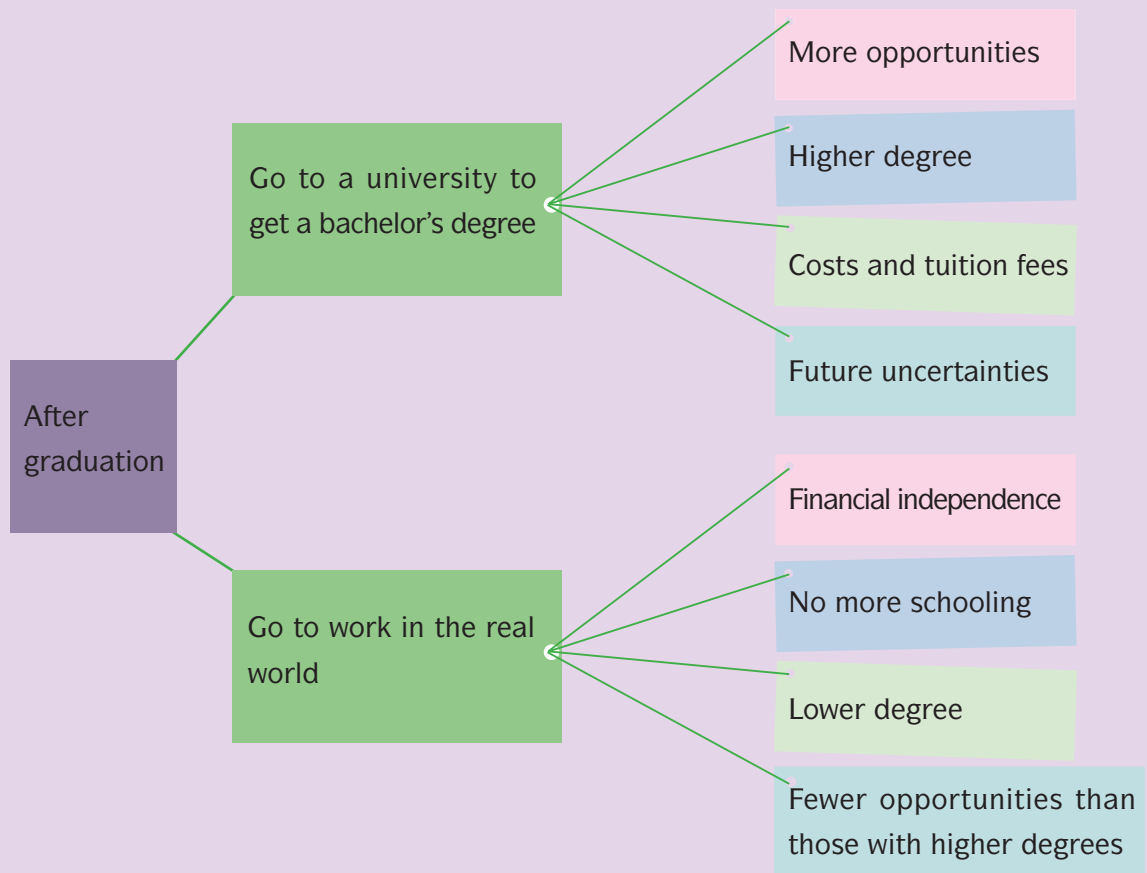
1. Today the college is having its annual “Become Your Best Self Day”.
2. ... I believe we can realise our own dreams while making great contributions to our country.

上文所示“动词 + 名词短语”是英语习惯用语的一种常见构成方式，动词 have, make 和 take 在构成习惯用语方面尤其多产，如 have a look, make a deal, take a walk 等。习惯用语的恰当运用有助于提高英语表达的流利性和地道性。

## Practical Reading

### 1 Read about Bob's situation and examine his decision tree.

Bob will graduate from a technical and vocational college in June and is now facing a hard decision. He has a job offer and has, at the same time, been accepted by a university. So, what should he choose? To make things clearer, he draws a decision tree.



### 2 If you were Bob, what decision would you make? Why? Add more pros and cons.

#### Tips

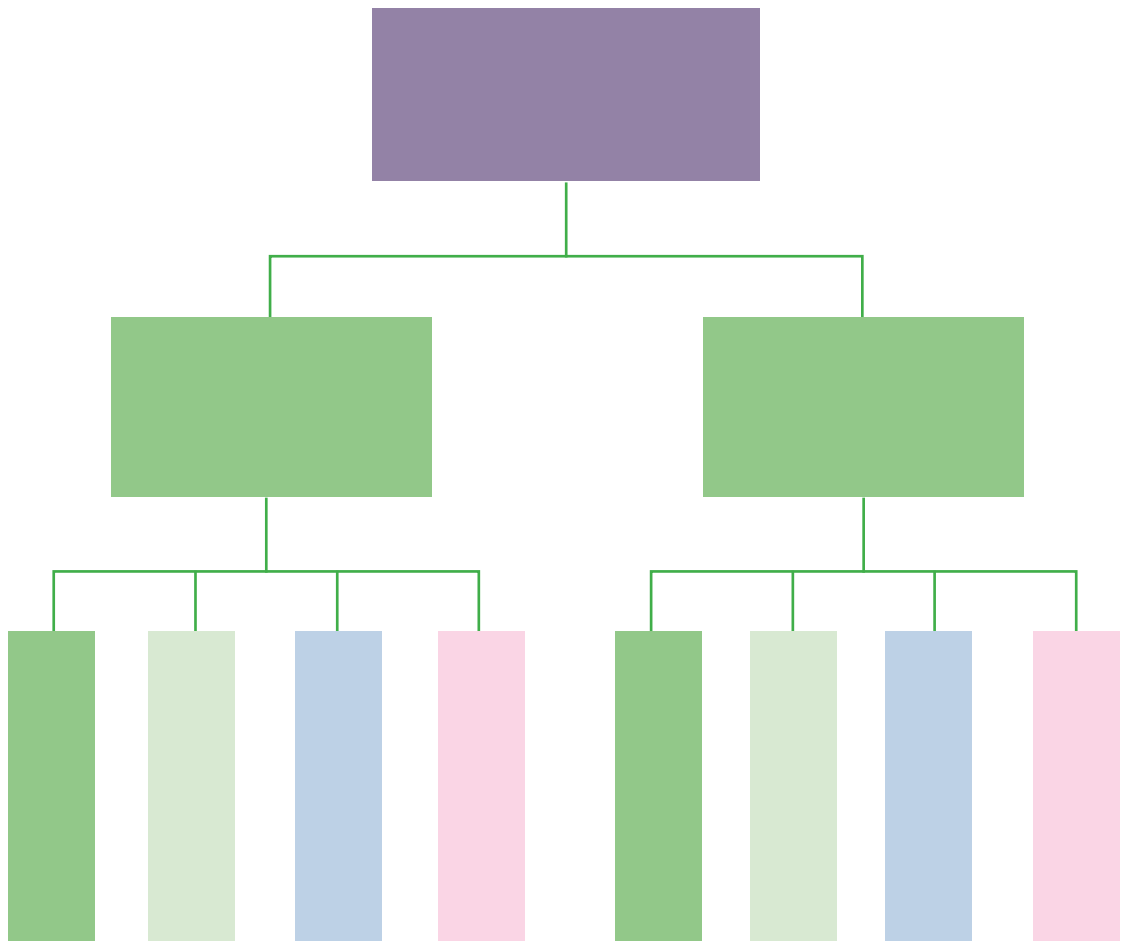
decision tree (决策树) 是一种简单实用的决策工具，它以树形图的方式表明，一旦你做了某种选择，接下来可能发生的一系列情形。



## Practical Writing

Read the following description about Jenny's situation. Then work in pairs and make a decision tree for Jenny.

Jenny just finished the national college entrance exam. Since her score is only a few points above the minimum criterion for universities, there aren't many choices for her. But if she chooses vocational education, she can choose whatever major or college she likes. Her parents want her to go to university yet she prefers a technical and vocational college. What should she do?





# Project

**1** Work in groups of four.

**2** Each member of the group interviews 3 people of different age groups (one of your age, one of your parents' age and one of your grandparents' age) about the biggest decisions they once made. You may refer to the following questions.

1. *What's the biggest decision you once made?*
2. *What made it your biggest decision?*
3. *Are you happy with that decision or not?*

**3** Share your interview result with your group members and discuss the following questions.

1. *When making decisions, what factors influence them most?*
2. *What are the differences in the decisions made by the three age groups?*

**4** Share your findings with the whole class.

# Around the World 🎧

## The Road Not Taken (Part II)

*by Robert Frost*

...

Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I —  
I took the one less travelled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

# My Progress Check

## Listening Comprehension

### 1 Listen to the dialogue and choose the information you hear.

- Brad graduated from the best journalism school in the country.
- Brad left the university two weeks before graduation.
- Brad realised he was not ready for journalism, so he dropped out.
- Brad didn't finish the university because he had no directions.

### 2 What are the advantages of going to a vocational college in your opinion?

1. They offer more specific training. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

## Vocabulary and Structure

### 1 Complete the sentences with the proper form of *have*, *make* or *take*.

1. Mr Brown's remarks revealed that he \_\_\_\_\_ no idea what he was talking about.
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ advantage of the good weather to paint the house.
3. I didn't \_\_\_\_\_ time to stop and talk just now.
4. Why did she do a thing like that? It doesn't seem to \_\_\_\_\_ sense.
5. I hope you've \_\_\_\_\_ good use of your time.
6. The government must \_\_\_\_\_ action now to stop the rise in violent crimes.

## 2 Complete the sentences with the proper form of the given words or expressions.

annual   reward   interview   various   see... as   potential

1. Students are offered a wide \_\_\_\_\_ of courses in this department.
2. All children should be encouraged to realise their full \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The school has operated \_\_\_\_\_ winter long-distance races since 1995.
4. Technical and vocational colleges are \_\_\_\_\_ the ideal place to get specific training by more and more people.
5. Travelling along the old Silk Road is an interesting and \_\_\_\_\_ experience.
6. Next week, I will \_\_\_\_\_ Spielberg about his latest movie.

## Translation

### Translate the sentences into English using the given words or expressions.

1. 那一年也消除了我以前对职业技术学院的一些误解。(misconception)
2. 我自己动手能力比较强，边学边做的模式非常适合我。(suit)
3. 我认为中国正在成为世界上最伟大且最具有生产力的国家之一。(productive)
4. 我的学校开设各种各样的课程，这些课程非常有用，也充满了挑战性。(a wide variety of)

## Reading and Writing

### Read the paragraph and complete the following tasks.

After studying for a year here, I've come to realise that *technical and vocational colleges have unique value*. Such colleges prepare students for specific jobs and careers. They offer learning programmes combining an advanced scientific theory with practical work experience. If you know what you want to do, and it's something that requires a fair amount of hands-on training, a technical and vocational college could be the best choice for you.

1. Translate the underlined sentence into Chinese.
2. Write down your understanding of the italicised part in about 80 words.