



THE VIRGINIA  
ADULT LEARNING  
RESOURCE CENTER

Virginia Commonwealth University

**Plumbing**  
**Lesson Three: A Plumbing Career**

**Student Handouts**

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## Activity #1: Meet Dave Chin

### On His Way Up



**Dave and his boss**

Dave Chin is a **plumber's helper or apprentice**. He is learning about plumbing "on the job." For the last 3 years, Dave has worked with his boss, Edgar Morales. Mr. Morales is a **licensed plumber** and a **contractor**. He has his own company, called Quality Plumbing.

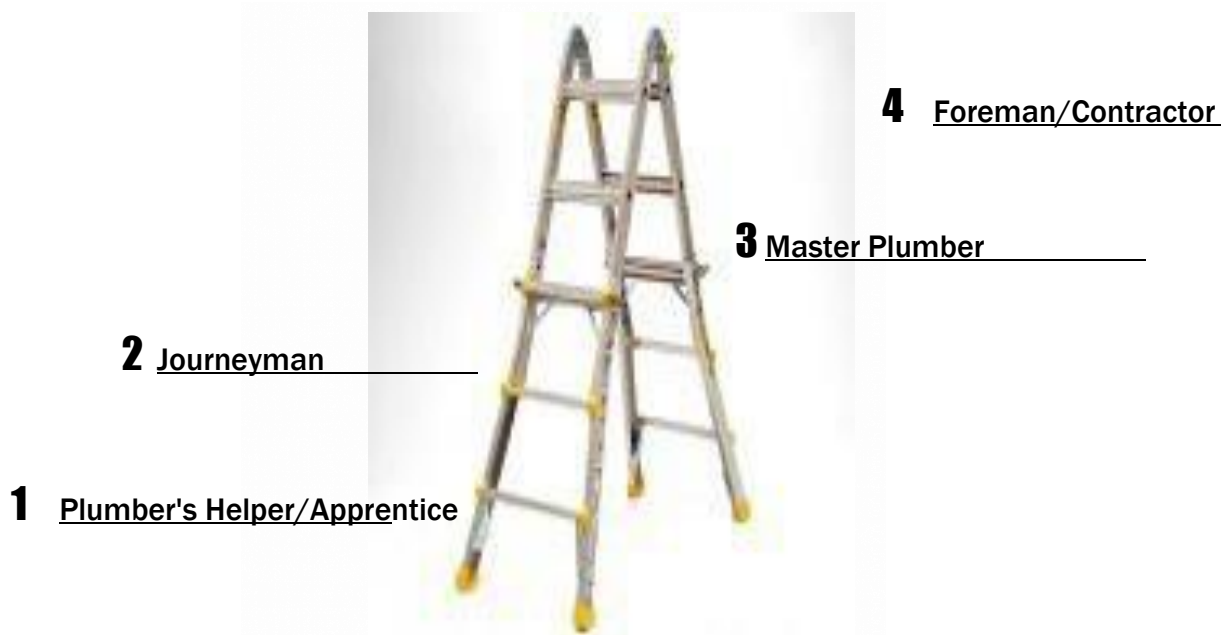
When Dave first started working for Quality Plumbing, he had to learn the many types and sizes of pipes and fittings. He also learned how to use plumbing tools, such as a pipe wrench or a snake.

Because of his work experience with Edgar, Dave now knows how to install new plumbing systems, maintain plumbing-related appliances and fixtures, and repair old ones. Most of Dave's work is at commercial sites. Sometimes he also goes out on service calls to smaller residential jobs. After one more year of work experience, Dave can apply for his **Journeyman's license**.

These days, when he is not at work, Dave is studying about the plumbing trade online. Last year he took a few classes at the local community college, but his work schedule was very busy. It was too hard for him to go to class every week. The internet classes are better for him because he can study any time of the day or night. The best part is that he doesn't even have to leave his house.

When he has finished his studies, Dave is planning to take the local plumbing exam. If he passes the exam, he will get his license to be a **Journeyman**. In the future, after a few more years of experience, Dave wants to be a **Master Plumber** like his boss, Edgar. Some day Dave hopes to be a **foreman** for a large mechanical company or a **plumbing contractor** with his own plumbing business.

Using information from the paragraph, write the steps Dave plans to follow in his plumbing career.



## Activity #2: The First Steps

Listen and read along as your instructor reads the advertisement below.

### **Earn While You Learn: Begin a Rewarding Career as a Plumber**

Would you like to be getting a good wage and benefits while learning a skill?  
Are you interested in a career that provides challenging work, excellent rewards  
and the opportunity to be your own boss?

Become an apprentice plumber. United Association Local 250 is accepting  
applications for next year's apprentice class.

As an apprentice you receive:

- A good wage while you learn, with automatic raises.  
Comprehensive benefits--healthcare and retirement plan.
- Training in mechanical and computer skills that prepare you to  
become a journeyman.
- Possible future earnings of over \$35 an hour, plus outstanding  
benefits.
- Work year-round indoors and outdoors new construction,  
remodeling; residential and commercial.
- No student loans – you are paid while you learn!  
Prepare for a career that can include advancement to foreman,  
estimator, safety director, and inspector.
- Learn a trade that will enable you to own your own business.

Applicants must be 18 years old and have a high school diploma, or a G.E.D.  
certificate, and a valid driver's license. Good grades in science and math are  
desirable. If your application is accepted, you will need to take an aptitude test  
and have a face-to-face interview.

For more information, log on to the [UA local website](#)

## Activity #2: The First Steps

Read the questions chart below. If the answer for each question is in the ad, check **yes**. If the information in the question is not in the ad, check **no**. If you learn some specific information about the topic, write the information in the **Notes**.

### Did you read about . . .

|   | yes | no | Notes                                     |
|---|-----|----|---|
| 1. the benefits that workers get in this position?                                  |     |    | healthcare and retirement plan            |
| 2. the level of education required for the job?                                     |     |    | high school diploma or G.E.D. certificate |
| 3. the starting salary?   |     |    |   |
| 4. the type of position that is offered?  |     |    | apprentice plumber                        |
| 5. where to call for more information?  |     |    |   |
| 6. the steps in the application process?  |     |    | application; aptitude test; interview     |
| 7. the organization that is offering the job?                                       |     |    | United Association Local 250              |
| 8. how to start your own plumbing business?   |     |    |   |
| 9. the grades that an applicant must have in math and science to apply for the job? |     |    | "good"                                    |
| 10. the minimum age required to apply?  |     |    | 18  |