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# Soft Skills for the Summer

## Now's the time to develop your soft skills

Summer vacation is finally here! Now's your chance to rest, relax, and have fun. While this is a great time to kick back, you can also **develop your soft skills doing activities you may already have planned** this summer. Whether you're planning on traveling, working, volunteering, or simply relaxing, you can use the summer to develop your soft skills.

## What are **soft skills**?

Soft skills are the skills that go beyond the technical aspects of a job. As opposed to hard skills, which consist of your training, education, and knowledge for a particular career, soft skills are **personal qualities that are learned through experience**.

## Why should you develop your soft skills this summer?

This summer is the best time to develop your soft skills since you'll have the time off from school work and can **focus on improving your skills**. You can even develop your soft skills from doing activities you may already have planned for the summer.

Here are the **top three reasons** why you should enhance your skills this summer:

### 1. **Boost your resumé**

If you're hoping to apply for jobs or post-secondary school, soft skills can **help make you a top candidate**. Employers and recruiters like to see applicants with key skills such as leadership, organization, motivation, dedication, and others that give them an idea as to what kind of worker/student you could be. If you work on developing these skills over the summer, you're **already showing commitment and dedication**. You won't have to worry about gaining these skills during the school year when you're busy thinking about post-secondary and passing high school — since you'll have done the work in the summer.

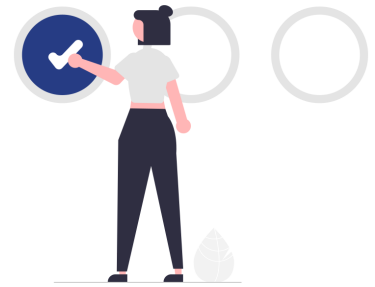


## 2. Enhance your work value

Whether you already have a summer job or you're looking to get a part-time job, soft skills will help you **become a better worker**. All the technical aspects of a job can be taught, but **soft skills will help you succeed from the beginning**. By using your soft skills, such as good listening, collaboration, and persistence, you'll be able to handle any task that's thrown your way. While you can develop these skills as you continue to work, there's no time like the present to invest in your future!

## 3. Start the school year strong

Start your school year off right with the skills you developed over the summer! The soft skills you develop can actually help you **perform better in school**. With skills such as organization, time management, and patience, you'll be able to multitask your projects like a pro! Once the school year kicks off and projects begin to pile up, you'll be glad you developed these skills when you had the time off.



## What soft skills can I gain and how can I develop them?

Practicing your soft skills this summer doesn't have to be difficult. The **activities you already have planned this summer are a great opportunity to work on these skills**. So, with that being said, here are the **top seven soft skills you should think about** this summer, along with a fun way to do it. Remember, you don't have to follow our exact suggestions to boost your skills — you can find a way that interests you!

### 1. Leadership

This soft skill is very beneficial for setting goals, motivating others, boosting morale, and inspiring others. This is a great skill to have in school projects, clubs, sports, and your workplace as well. You could work on your leadership this summer by **organizing a sports game and getting other people involved**. You could set it up once, or make it a weekly event with friends! Determining the logistics and bringing everyone together is a great way to develop your leadership skill.

### 2. Public speaking

Public speaking is a skill that will help you **effectively communicate your thoughts** when you find yourself speaking to a group or person with authority. This summer, you're bound to find yourself in a larger group of people, whether that be friends or family, and you can use this opportunity to practice your public speaking skill. Simply **initiate a conversation in the group and engage everyone around**. You don't need to do a whole speech or presentation to build up your confidence in public speaking.

### 3. Collaboration

Collaboration is a **key skill when working with others**. It improves the way your group works together. A fun way to work on your collaboration skill this summer is to **play a video game with a friend** — specifically one that requires at least two people to complete the game. You'll be working together to complete a common goal in an engaging way.

### 4. Time management

This skill will be important for your education and juggle multiple responsibilities. A great way to boost your time management skill this summer is by scheduling your time. You'll have daily and weekly tasks to complete, whether that's hanging out with friends, going on vacation, working, or doing chores. **Use a scheduling tool**, like Google Calendar, to help you keep track of everything.



### 5. Confidence

Confidence ultimately helps you feel prepared for any goals you may have. There are a few ways you could gain some confidence this summer: **face a fear, put yourself in the spotlight, or prepare for situations that make you anxious**. Ride on a roller coaster until you're no longer scared! Sing karaoke! Putting yourself out there will build your confidence.

### 6. Adaptability

Life is unpredictable and being adaptable helps you **manage change**. You're bound to run into a time this summer where plans have to change because someone canceled or something else came up. Being able to accept this change and work with what you have will help you be more adaptable.

### 7. Problem solving

Problem solving is a skill you use everyday where you identify an issue and find solutions. This can be as simple as not having the ingredients you wanted for breakfast and having to find something else. The issue **doesn't need to be complicated** to practice this skill. You may already be doing it every day without realizing!

## Good luck and **have fun!**

There you have it! Brushing up on your soft skills this summer will be easier than you thought. So, get out and **enjoy your summer while you enhance your skills**.

