

EVOLVE LEVEL 5, Mid-term Test 2B

LISTENING 1

- JW:** Today on “What’s your job”, we’re talking to veterinarian, Dr. Juan Valencia. Welcome to the show, Dr. Valencia. Can you tell us a little about why you decided to become a vet?
- Juan:** Happy to be here! Well, I realized at a very young age that I got a lot of satisfaction out of being around animals and helping animals. When I was a child, I used to spend a lot of time taking care of my grandparents’ animals. They lived on a ranch and they had all sorts of animals, from dogs to chickens. I quickly realized that I wanted to devote my life to wildlife, but I also really liked interacting with other people, so working with domesticated animals seemed like the logical choice.
- JW:** Now that you’ve achieved your goals, would you say that it was the right choice? Do you take pleasure in the job?
- Juan:** Yes, definitely! There’s just one part of it I’ll never enjoy.
- JW:** And what’s that?
- Juan:** It’s very unfortunate, but the sad fact is that some animals are too sick to save, so of course that means I have to intervene and put them to sleep. It’s the kindest thing to do in those circumstances. It’s sad for me to see an animal die, but it’s much worse for the owner. I do my best to reassure people, to ... well, put their minds at rest, I guess ... and make things go as smoothly as possible, but it gets me down sometimes.
- JW:** Yes, I can imagine. You’re like the emergency services for pets, really, aren’t you?
- Juan:** Yes, that’s absolutely right! I see some terrible things – illnesses and accidents – just like any doctor, but of course often there’s a happy ending. Those are the good times. It’s really an honor to be able to help a sick animal. I like to feel I’m making a contribution to the well-being and happiness of others, and I think I do. One of the hard things you have to come to terms with is that sometimes, you’re going to ruin someone’s day by giving them bad news, but often, you’re going to make someone’s day by offering a cure or a therapy for their precious pet. Overall, the good days make all the bad days worthwhile!
- JW:** Thank you for coming to talk to us today, Juan.
- Juan:** Thank you!