



# What Color Is Your Parachute? Job-Hunter's Workbook, Fourth Edition

By Richard N. Bolles

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**Career expert Richard N. Bolles walks job-hunters step by step through his famed self-inventory tool, the Flower Exercise, to discover their favorite skills and goals and create a picture of their ideal job or next career.**

Whether you're a recent grad, a midlife career-changer, or simply out of work, *What Color Is Your Parachute? Job-Hunter's Workbook* is your key to creating a picture of your ideal job or next career.

Career guru Richard N. Bolles has been helping job-hunters for decades with his classic job-search guide, *What Color Is Your Parachute?* This revised and updated full-color workbook makes doing his highly effective Flower Exercise easy. With user-friendly exercises, all-new material, and plenty of space to write, the Job-Hunter's Workbook will help you translate personal interests into marketable job skills. Simple step-by-step worksheets will illuminate your favorite transferable skills, fields of knowledge, job environments, values and goals, working conditions, and levels of responsibility and salary. Once you've completed the workbook, you'll have a comprehensive picture of your dream job, and be able to target your ideal work situation.

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## **Editorial Review**

Review

### **Praise for *What Color Is Your Parachute?***

“What Color Is Your Parachute? is about job-hunting and career-changing, but it’s also about figuring out who you are as a person and what you want out of life.”

—Time

“There’s Parachute, and then there’s all the rest . . . A life-changing book.”

—Career Planning and Adult Development Journal

“It was one of the first job-hunting books on the market. It is still arguably the best.

And it is indisputably the most popular.”

—Fast Company

About the Author

RICHARD N. BOLLES has led the job-search field for more than 40 years. A member of Mensa and the Society for Human Resource Management, he has been the keynote speaker at hundreds of conferences. Bolles holds a bachelor's degree cum laude in physics from Harvard University, a master's degree from General Theological (Episcopal) Seminary in New York City, and three honorary doctorates.

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### **Why Do You Need to Know Who You Are?**

You could be doing this workbook for a number of reasons. They include:

1. You’re trying to find out more about who you are, just for the fun of it. Fun? Well, why shouldn’t it be? It’s you that you’re doing this homework on: what more fascinating exploration could you possibly imagine? You’ve got talent, no doubt about that. (Everyone has, even if they don’t know what it is . . . yet.) Finding out just what your specific gifts are should be lots of fun. It all depends on the attitude you bring to it. If you think of it as a task, it will be; if you think it will be fun, it will be.

2. You’re trying to make a major decision in your life: what major to pursue in college, what career to choose for your first time out of the gate into the world of work, or what career to change to, if you’ve been in the world of work for some time, and your present one is boring the life out of you. Knowing the answer to “Who am I?” will help tremendously with any of these decisions. Because “who am I?” involves—among other things—making a list of what you know, and what you can do. If we are in mid-life, often we can put together a new career just using what we already know, and what we already can do; we don’t necessarily have to go back for three or four years of retraining. I’m not talking here about radical career changes, like from salesperson to doctor, or from old-fashioned warehouse management to the mastering of CATIA systems. For such, you obviously need additional training. But until you know who you are, you don’t know what you need, or what enchants you.

3. You’re at a crisis point in your life: divorce, death, the ending of some long-term job, the acquiring of a new disability in your life due to accident, disease, or war. Martin Luther King, Jr., called these interruptions to our life. “The major problem of life,” he said, “is learning how

to handle the costly interruptions. The door that slams shut, the plan that got sidetracked, the marriage that failed. Or that lovely poem that didn't get written because someone knocked on the door." He saw them, and so should we, as opportunities. To pause. To think. To assess where we really want to go from here, with our lives. If you begin with answering the question, "Who am I?" before you set out on your new journey, it makes all the difference in the world. You may actually trip over the answer to the most fascinating question you can ask: why are you here on earth, and what is your mission in life?

4. Lastly, maybe the reason you're doing this inventory of yourself now is because you're in some class or group, and the instructor decided everyone in the class should work through this workbook. In other words, it wasn't your choice. You had nothing to say about it.

Okay, use the opportunity. Make this time of your life a hunt for a deeper life. A life you're prouder of. A victorious life.

Dream a little. Dream a lot. One of the saddest lines in the world is, "Oh come now—be realistic." The best parts of this world were not fashioned by those who were realistic. They were fashioned by those who dared to look hard at their wishes and then gave them horses to ride.

### ***What Language Shall We Use to Describe Who You Are?***

What language do we want to use, to describe who you are? I'm not referring to languages such as English, French, or Chinese here; I'm thinking of life languages. There are three of them, because there are three worlds we live in, during our lifetime: the world of education, then the world of work, and finally the world of leisure or retirement:

In each of these worlds, we can—and do—use different language. For example, in the world of education our language is about ourselves as student. In the world of work our language is about ourselves as worker. And in the world of leisure our language is about ourselves as player. So, the first decision we have to make, once we decide to inventory and describe who we are, is, "In what language shall we describe ourselves—the language of student, the language of worker, or the language of player?"

In this workbook, and elsewhere, we have opted for the language describing you as worker. Why? Well, it is relatively easy to get into the world of learning—though in terms of college, it is getting harder; and it is relatively easy to get into the world of leisure. What is difficult is getting into the world of work, or getting back into the world of work. For this, you need the most time, the best tools, the hardest thinking, and the strongest preparation. It is best, then, to describe yourself to yourself in the language of work. In this workbook, this is what we shall do. And so, we begin.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Eva Ammons:**

The book *What Color Is Your Parachute? Job-Hunter's Workbook, Fourth Edition* can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. Why then must we leave the best thing like a book *What Color Is Your Parachute? Job-Hunter's Workbook, Fourth Edition*? A few of you have a different opinion about guide. But one aim that book can give many facts for us. It is absolutely proper. Right now, try to closer with the book. Knowledge or information that you take for that, you are able to give for each other; you are able to share all of these. Book *What Color Is Your Parachute? Job-Hunter's Workbook, Fourth Edition* has

simple shape however you know: it has great and big function for you. You can look the enormous world by wide open and read a reserve. So it is very wonderful.

**Tracy Lindsey:**

Now a day people that Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not involve people to be aware of each data they get. How a lot more to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Reading a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty Information mainly this What Color Is Your Parachute? Job-Hunter's Workbook, Fourth Edition book because book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the details in this book hundred % guarantees there is no doubt in it everbody knows.

**Michelle Seidl:**

Are you kind of hectic person, only have 10 or perhaps 15 minute in your moment to upgrading your mind expertise or thinking skill possibly analytical thinking? Then you have problem with the book compared to can satisfy your small amount of time to read it because all of this time you only find guide that need more time to be examine. What Color Is Your Parachute? Job-Hunter's Workbook, Fourth Edition can be your answer because it can be read by an individual who have those short spare time problems.

**Vincent Espinoza:**

It is possible to spend your free time to study this book this publication. This What Color Is Your Parachute? Job-Hunter's Workbook, Fourth Edition is simple to deliver you can read it in the area, in the beach, train as well as soon. If you did not include much space to bring the actual printed book, you can buy often the e-book. It is make you quicker to read it. You can save often the book in your smart phone. So there are a lot of benefits that you will get when you buy this book.

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