

# MY CAREER STORY

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## Meet Janice Dean

**Meteorologist**

AKA

the "weather  
machine!"



## All the clues pointed this way...

From the time I was a little girl, I was fascinated with broadcasting. My mother tells me that when I was really young I used a big spoon as a microphone to interview neighbors-- asking them "what are you up to" and "what is the weather like today". Even before I learned to read, I would talk into a recorder and listen to my voice.

And, yes, I have always been a weather watcher! Growing up in Canada, we had lots of snow and I would wonder where it all came from.

When I was in school, I really liked writing and English classes. But I was always good at math and science too. In high school, we had to take a career interest test and my top score was for journalist.

That's why I majored in journalism when I went to college. I enjoyed those classes but realized that being a reporter wasn't exactly what I wanted to do. After a couple years, I switched over to a radio and TV broadcasting college and knew that was a better fit for me. Following my interests led me to a detour that I liked even better.

## I did it all along the way...

Getting started in my career, I did everything from writing copy and producing news segments to doing coffee runs for the crew. I was working as a disc jockey for a radio station when I got the chance to go on camera as an announcer for a telethon for a local charity. A producer saw me and asked if I could fill in for the weather guy.

That was my first big break toward becoming a meteorologist. Now I am a broadcast meteorologist for a national cable news station!

My job involves chasing news stories all over the country. It could be covering the Kentucky derby one day and reporting on the solar eclipse another. For one broadcast, I got to zipline across the Rocky Mountains! Hurricane season is an especially busy time in my line of work. People all over the country watch my broadcasts and I love keeping them informed about weather.

### Janice Dean is an Author Too!

- Janice Dean wrote an entire collection of children's books about weather featuring her alter ego, Freddy the Frogcaster. Find titles at your local library and volunteer to read them during children's hour or as a reading buddy.
- She also shares stories from her life as a meteorologist in her autobiography-- *Mostly Sunny: How I Learned to Keep Smiling Through the Rainiest Days*; NY: Harper Collins, 2019.

## Your Career Clues

What subjects do you like the best in school? Which ones do you get the best grades in? Write your answers here:

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*JANICE DEAN'S CAREER CLUES:*  
*I always liked to write and I was good at math and science.*

## My best advice is...

Be nice! I really believe that being nice to other people has been as important to my success as my education and job experience.

When I worked at a local news station, I made friends with the make-up artist. This friend also did make-up for a national news station. When she heard that they were looking for new talent, she gave my resume to a producer there. That is how I landed my first interview and got my current job.

You never know how making friends with people can help your career. Sometimes you help them and other times they help you.