

Unit 3 Work

3.2 Homeworking

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Aims and Demand

Language:

- to learn about working from home;
- to build up vocabulary to describe working from home;

Skills:

- distinguish the advantages and disadvantages of working from home;
- talk about your dream job.



Aims and Demand

Ideology and politics:

- discuss about the factors to ensure working from home;
- talk about the advantages and disadvantages of working from home so as to develop the students' critical thinking,



1a Do you work at home or do you know anyone who does? Do you / they enjoy it?

1b Homeworking is generally on the increase. Why do you think that is?

2 Read the article and check your answer to Exercise 1b.



New words and phrases



graphic /'græfɪk/	<i>a.</i> 图样的； 图案的
graphic design	平面设计
a graphic designer	平面设计人员
publishing company	出版公司
rapidly /'ræpɪdli/	<i>adv.</i> 快速地， 迅速地
trend /trend/	<i>n.</i> 趋势， 动态； 时尚
phone and video-conferencing	电视电话会议； 视频电话会议
cost-effective = cost-efficient	<i>adj.</i> 划算的； 成本效益好的
efficient /ɪ'fɪʃnt/	<i>adj.</i> 生效的， 效率高的
reduce /rɪ'dju:s/	<i>v.</i> 减少， 降低

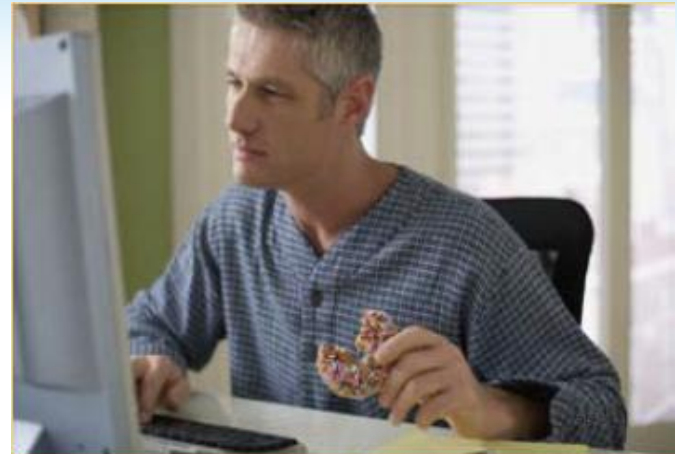


workstation	<i>n.</i> 工作站
time-consuming	<i>adj.</i> 耗时的，旷日持久的
commute /kə'mju:t/	<i>v./ n.</i> 通勤，上下班往返（路程）
appreciate /ə'pri:ʃieɪt/	<i>v.</i> 欣赏；感激；升值，增值
flexibility /ˌfleksə'bɪləti/	<i>n.</i> 灵活性；弹性，柔性
self-discipline /ˌself'dɪsəplɪn/	<i>n.</i> 自律，自我约束
time management	时间管理
miss out	错过；遗漏
gossip /'ɡɒsɪp/	<i>n./ v.</i> 流言蜚语，小道消息；闲聊
query /'kwɪəri/	<i>n./ v.</i> 疑问，询问；质疑；问号
pointless /'pɔɪntləs/	<i>adj.</i> 毫无意义的，毫无目标的；浪费时间的



Sunjit Patel is a graphic designer with a well-known publishing company. He has lived in England since he was five. He lives in South London, and for the last three years he has been working from home. He prefers working from home because he can spend more time with his family and have a better work-life balance.

Sunjit isn't alone: in Britain, there are 2.1 million people who work from home at present. In addition, about eight million people spend some time working in the home rather than in an office. This is almost twice as many as ten years ago.



Working-from-home
dream now a reality



This rapidly-growing trend towards working from home is the same in many countries. But what are the reasons for it? The main reason is **technological**: easy **access** to **broadband** and the **availability** of phone and video-conferencing. These **enable** people to use their home as an office in an **efficient** and **cost-effective** way.

Other reasons for homeworking are the benefits to both employers and employees: office space is **costly**, so if an organisation can **reduce** its **workstations**, it may be able to move to a smaller site. Employees often work better at home: travelling to work can be very **time-consuming** and tiring. Many homeworkers save a lot of time if they don't **commute** and they can start the day **fresher** and therefore work more efficiently; parents with young children **appreciate** the **flexibility** that homeworking **allows** and are more relaxed.

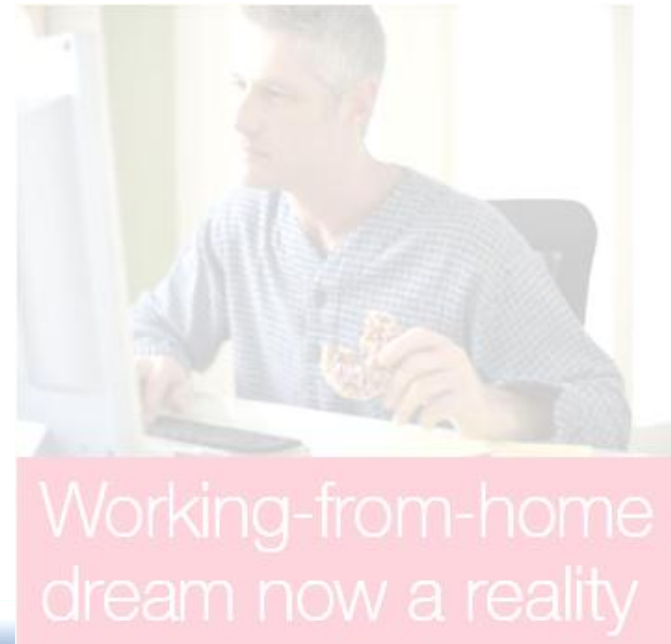


Sunjit Patel says, “I have been working from home since my son was born and have been really enjoying it. But, I can tell you that homeworking requires special skills like self-discipline and time management. I’ve known my boss and colleagues for a long time now, which really helps because you’ve got to trust each other. You also need to have regular contact, by phone, e-mail or video conferences, and you need to make regular trips to your office. Otherwise you really miss out on the gossip and on the social side of work.”



Working-from-home
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Not everyone agrees with Sunjit though. This **response** to a **query** about homeworking was recently posted on the Internet: “The only people who can work from home are those who do an unnecessary job. Can surgeons work from home? Ambulance drivers? Firefighters? If you can work from home **full-time**, you have a **pointless** job.” Fortunately for Sunjit and the 2.1 million like him, not many people think that way!



Working-from-home
dream now a reality

2b Read the article again and find the following information.

- 1 how long Sunjit has lived in England
since he was five;
- 2 how long Snjit has been working at home
for three years;
- 3 how many people work from home in Britain nowadays
2.1 million (another eight million spend some time working from home);
- 4 a reason why employers might encourage homeworking
office space is costly; reduce workstations; move to a smaller site;
employees often work better at home; employees can start the day
fresher and therefore work more efficiently;
- 5 a disadvantage for an employee of working from home
employees miss the social side of work;
- 6 three methods of communication mentioned by Sunjit
phone, e-mail and video conferences

Key

Clear



VOCABULARY :

expressions connected with time and work

3a Match the expressions with their meanings.

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| a) organising your time effectively | 1 time-consuming |
| b) taking up a lot of time | 2 time management |
| c) how much time you spend at work and home | 3 workstation |
| d) use time doing something | 4 work-life balance |
| e) the place in an office where a person works, especially with a computer | 5 spend time |

Key

Clear



3b Complete the text with the words and expressions from Exercise 3a.

I've got a full-time job and I'm tired all the time. I don't need to improve my ¹ **time management** skills as I organise my time efficiently. But I do have to ² **spend** (a lot of) **time** commuting to work and it's very ³ **time-consuming**. One way I could save time would be to look at homeworking. My boss might like that as she could reduce the number of ⁴ **workstations**. I could stay in touch with the office by e-mail and phone. I'm not a workaholic. What I want is a better ⁵ **work-life balance** so I can be with my family more of the time.

Key

Clear



LISTENING

6a **2.13**  Listen to five people talking about working from home. What is each person's job?

1 translator;

2 writer;

3 website designer;

4 designer;

5 marketing

Key

Clear



6b  Listen again. How long has each person been working from home? Do they like it? What reasons do they give?

	For how long	Like (✓) / Dislike (✗)	Reasons
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			



	For how long	Like (✓) / Dislike (✗)	Reasons
1	12 years	✓	worklife balance easier to manage (this is necessary because of the children)
2	18 months	✗	paying a lot more for heating, misses the office gossip, it's lonely;
3	since 2004	✓	being his own boss, has more time, taking guitar lessons;
4	since January	✓	doesn't have to commute on crowded trains, has lots more time, learning Spanish;
5	since January	✓	can get up late and work late in the evenings, not a morning person (doesn't like getting up/ can't work well in the morning)



SPEAKING

4 Work with a partner to discuss the following.

- 1 What are the disadvantages of homeworking from the employer's point of view?
- 2 Would you like to work from home? What would be the advantages / disadvantages for you?
- 3 Do you agree with the opinion in the last paragraph of the article?



Speech: My view on working from home

- ❖ In today's English class, a heated debate was held on the advantages and disadvantages of working from home. ...
- ❖ Some argues that ... The reasons are evident. First of all, ... Secondly, ... Last but not least, ...
- ❖ However, quite a number of people hold the opposite of the picture. They don't think ... For one thing, ... For another, ...
- ❖ In my opinion, ...



GRAMMAR :

present perfect continuous

5a Look at the two **highlighted** sentences in the text. Which of these statements about the present perfect continuous are true?

- 1 It is formed with *have / has + been + -ing*.
- 2 It is used to talk about an action that finished a long time ago.
- 3 It is used to talk about an action that continues to the present.
- 4 It is often used with the time expressions *since* and *for*.

Statements 1, 3 and 4 are all true about the present perfect continuous.

Key

Clear



5b Look again at the highlighted sentences. Complete the rule with *for* or *since*.

We use since + a point in time (when the activity started)
and for + a period of time.

GRAMMAR TIP

Remember that we do not usually
use state verbs in the continuous
form, e.g.

be know understand

Key

Clear



5c Write sentences using the present perfect continuous, unless it is not possible to use the verb in the continuous. Use *since* and *for* when appropriate.

1 Cristina / work as a designer / she graduated.

Cristina has been working as a designer since she graduated.

2 I / know Yukiyo / six months.

I've known Yukiyo for six months.

3 How long / Mohamed / study engineering at university?

How long has Mohamed been studying engineering at university?

4 Fuat / live in Istanbul / he got a job there.

Fuat has been living in Istanbul since he got a job there.

5 Marianna / work at home / two years.

Marianna has been working at home for two years.

6 I / not live here / very long.

I haven't been living here for very long.

7 Ji Hyun / understand the problem / yesterday morning.

Ji Hyun has understood the problem since yesterday morning.

8 Mark and Julie / teach / same college / a year?

Have Mark and Julie been teaching at the same college for a year?



7 Complete the extracts with the present perfect simple or present perfect continuous of the verbs in the box.

Be take learn live work (x2) translate pay



- 1 I've been translating from Italian to English for most of my career.
- 2 I've been working from home for 12 years, since my first child was born.
- 3 I've been paying a lot more for heating.
- 4 I've been working from home as a website designer since I left my last job in 2004.
- 5 I've been taking guitar lessons for the last six months.
- 6 I've been learning a new language since January.
- 7 I've been living abroad for five years.
- 8 I've (never) been a morning person.

Key


Clear



pronunciation

- 8a** 2.14  **Correcting politely** Listen to this short dialogue.
Underline the main stress in what B says. 
- A: So you've been working in Shanghai for six months?
B: No, actually I've been working in Shanghai for two months.



8b **2.14**  **Listen again and repeat the dialogue with a partner. Then practise some more dialogues.**

student A: Turn to [page 158](#).

student B: Turn to [page 161](#).



SPEAKING

9 Work with a partner. Talk about things you've been doing for some time, using *since* and *for*.

I've been revising for my exams since Monday and I haven't been sleeping properly. I'm really tired at the moment. So far, I've revised English and Arabic.



Thank You !

