

READING

A Read the text about digital nomads and complete the sentences (1–5). An example (0) has been done for you.

Remote Working – Good or Bad?

Digital nomads are people who travel around the world using telecommunications technology to allow them to earn a living.

‘The world is my office,’ Jane proclaims with some pride. Jane is part of a digital revolution that has been changing the way we work and, more importantly, where we work. She is part of a group called digital nomads who are riding the tech wave into the future and in the process changing how many jobs can be done from anywhere in the world.

This seems to be old news as a company’s office location generally doesn’t dictate where the business is performed. What is different is that the digital nomad doesn’t have an office – they have portable tools. ‘You can do pretty much any job anywhere these days, although it’s not a new thing,’ Jane continues to explain, ‘with my cell phone and laptop I can work anywhere at any time.’ Her favorite place to work this month is by a beach not far from her rented beach house on the edge of the Indian Ocean.

It sounds like a perfect way to work, but what, if any, are the downsides? First, there is the fact that a lot of the time you may end up working for a company that expects you to be available during office hours in *their* country. So, if you’re working for an Australian company while living in Europe, the time difference will have a severe impact on your life. Second, it doesn’t mean less work. Usually you have to work a regular nine-to-five schedule, but as with any job you may need to put in some extra hours to get everything done.

As Jane explains, ‘I usually work very long hours that are no different from what I used to do before I left the traditional office. Being a nomad just means that I can choose where I work, not how much or when, and this is a mistake I see a lot of new nomads making.’ Jane went on to tell me that last year she almost gave it all up because she was working from a village in Portugal and realized that she hadn’t actually had time to see any part of the country except where she had set up a base. ‘Realizing where I went wrong last year was a big step for me. I have now revisited what I wanted from my life and decided that I needed to do less so I could get more from where I was living at the time.’

- 0 Digital nomads use computers and Wi-Fi to earn a living.
- 1 Digital nomads are part of a change that means people can work from _____.
- 2 The idea of working in a different location from your office is _____.
- 3 The hours you work may have to fit in with the location of _____.
- 4 New nomads have to decide when and _____ work they need to do.
- 5 Nomads should review their work schedules to check they are doing the amount of work _____.

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Skills Test Units 4–5

- B** Read four people's opinions about going to cafés. Match each of the opinions (1–5) to the person who says it. An example (0) has been done for you.

Recent surveys have picked up on the reasons why customers use cafés and, oddly, drinking coffee came in fairly low on the list. Read comments from four regular café goers to see what they think.

Fred

I'm really surprised by this survey. I'm not sure I have ever really been to a café for any reason other than a warm drink. I don't always have a coffee, but I think there are other places I'd rather work. For me, I don't understand how people can work in such a noisy environment, although sometimes I do wish I had the opportunity not to be in the office all the time.

Serena

Until about a year ago, I had never been in a café. I always thought they were a waste of money and I knew that I could make a better coffee myself, and with more care, than someone else in a store. All that has changed since I moved away to go to college though. I generally go to cafés to meet up with classmates, and we talk and plan what we're going to do. It's definitely a place I go to socialize rather than anything else.

Nick

When I was a kid, I used to always meet my friends at a café on my way home from school. We used to think we were all very adult and would have coffees and teas – using up our allowance in no time at all. I learned a lot about the value of money and how easy it is to spend when it is so difficult to make. Nowadays, I still frequent a few cafés in my area, but I rarely spend more than a couple of dollars and spend hours catching up with people.

June

I've never really been into the café culture, probably because the area I lived in as a kid had nothing like that around. When I started to work for myself, I used to spend all day in a café on the corner of the road I lived on. After the first year, I realized that maybe I would be more productive if I worked somewhere else because in the end so many regulars knew me and I ended up talking with them more than working. These days, I tend to work from home, but I always pop down to the corner for a catch up with my neighbors.

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------|
| 0 | Who was shocked by what they read? | <u>Fred</u> |
| 1 | Who takes their time with their coffee and friends? | _____ |
| 2 | Who used to use a café as an office? | _____ |
| 3 | Who thought being in a café made them older than they were? | _____ |
| 4 | Who thinks cafés are too loud to work in? | _____ |
| 5 | Who changed their mind about cafés when they left home? | _____ |

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LISTENING



A Listen to Stefanos and Julie talking about their jobs and complete the sentences (1–5). An example (0) has been done for you.

- 3
- 0 Julie wanted to be a pilot as a kid.
 - 1 Julie's _____ helped her learn about the world.
 - 2 Stefanos doesn't have the _____ skills for an office job.
 - 3 Stefanos says it is hard to find _____ when starting a company.
 - 4 Julie's brother is not _____ enough to be a mechanic.
 - 5 Julie thinks Stefanos will have plenty of _____.

___ / 5



B Listen to five extracts where people are talking about their futures. Match each extract (1–5) to a statement (a–g). There is an extra statement you do not need. An example has been done for you.

This person

- | | | |
|---|-----------|------------------|
| a is planning to move soon. | Extract 1 | ___ |
| b has a firm plan for the next year. | Extract 2 | ___ |
| c is hoping to be promoted next month. | Extract 3 | ___ |
| d works in a noisy neighborhood. | Extract 4 | ___ |
| e would like to do something they previously did. | Extract 5 | <u>c</u> and ___ |
| f lives in a noisy area. | | |
| g is waiting to hear about two things. | | |

___ / 5

WRITING

A Write a cover letter for a job you are interested in. Consider the following:

- what you're applying for and where you saw the ad
- what experience and certifications you have
- why you are interested in the post

Write your cover letter in 150–200 words.

___ / 5

B Write an essay on the future of the workplace, the way we will work and what will motivate us. Consider the following:

- the workplace
- perks
- job satisfaction

Write your essay in 150–200 words.

___ / 5

Total: ___ / 30