

Read the article again and match statements 1–5 to paragraphs A–E.

Say YES to Mess

A The desk in the photo is a classic example of a messy desk. There are **so many documents and books and things** piled in a messy way all over it, how could anyone possibly get any work done? It's obviously someone who has **too much work** to do and **too little time** to tidy up. Could you work at that desk? Most people would say no and a lot of company managers would agree.

B **How many companies** these days have clean desk policies? Most do, especially if the desks are in public view. Most people would agree that a messy desk makes a very bad impression. It makes the company look disorganized and inefficient. **A few people** have even lost their jobs because of their cluttered desks. In the U.S., a police chief was recently fired for not having a neat desk.

C So, mess is bad? Well, actually it seems not. The desk in the photo is actually a perfect example of creativity and flexibility. This is the desk of one of the greatest minds in modern science, Albert Einstein, who once said, "If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, what, then, is an empty desk?"

D Psychologists suggest that people who can tolerate mess at their desks are less likely to be stressed by mess and disorder in life. They are likely to be more relaxed, more confident and more able to deal with unpredictability. Research also shows that they are also likely to earn more money and hold more responsible positions.

E It also seems that people with messy desks spend up to 36% more time working on their actual job than their neater coworkers. Their apparent chaos is just as efficient as a clear desk. When asked to find something it might take **a little effort**, but it'll be there. And they argue that the short time they take to find something, when they need it is much less than the time the owners of neat desks spend constantly reorganizing their things.

So, is it all just a clever excuse to be lazy and disorganized? Or is a messy desk a sign of a superior mind?

Leave your comments and let us know what you think!

- 1 Mess can be good. →
- 2 A neat desk makes a good impression. →
- 3 A messy desk is difficult to work at. →
- 4 People who work at messy desks are more efficient. →
- 5 People who work at messy desks feel less stress. →

Read the comments that were left on the blog. Do they agree with the title of the article? Do you and your partner agree with any of them?

- 1 It's so good to hear someone praising mess. I never have **enough time** to tidy my desk! At last I can just enjoy my messiness. Thank you!
- 2 **Very few people** I know actually enjoy mess. That doesn't mean they're boring or inflexible. They just have different priorities. Live and let live, I say!
- 3 I think that people with messy desks are actually very selfish. If you have **plenty of space**, then that's fine. But when you have to share a workplace with a messy person, it can be very frustrating.
- 4 Have you ever worked for a messy boss? You've no idea **how much energy** I've wasted over the years tidying up after mine! Far **too much**, I can tell you!
- 5 I'm so busy, I have **very little time** to organize my desk. Sometimes someone else will do it for me—and that's always a complete disaster. I can never find anything!

Write your own comment in response to the article.

(50 words minimum)