



**READING**

**PART A**

Complete the text with the words In the box

Decided , employees, full time,  
Holidays, husband, levels,  
Manage, spend, uncertain,  
Valuable, women

## Time for a change?

Are you tired of travelling to the office every day? Are you bored with your <sup>1</sup> colleagues? Do you hate your boss? Then perhaps working for yourself is the answer.

Professor Simon Parker from Durham University looked at information about both employed and self-employed people in the UK and the USA in the 1990s. He found that people who run their own businesses enjoy high <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ of job satisfaction. This is because of the flexibility and independence that working for themselves gives them. The ability to organise their own working hours is more <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to them than earning a lot of money. However, they usually work longer hours than employees. The survey showed that, on average, self-employed men work between 54 and 56 hours a week. Male <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ work about 44 hours.

<sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ who run their own businesses work about 17 hours a week more than female employees. Self-employed women work 47 hours a week, while female employees work about 30. Professor Parker said that people who run their own businesses worked longer hours because their financial situation is more <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.

About one in ten people in Britain is now self-employed. Annette Fishburn used to earn £40,000 a year when she had a <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ job. She used to run training courses for small businesses. A year ago, she <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to become self-employed and started her own travel business. Her company, *Spirit Lifestyle* organises <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to Umbria in Italy. She now pays herself £25,000 a year. She sometimes works 100 hours a week, but she insists that it's worth it. 'Although some days I work for 16 hours, other days I can go and meet a friend for coffee or go shopping.' She says that she is able to <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ her own time to suit her, and this flexibility means more to her than money.

At first, it was hard, but things have gone well. Mrs Fishburn now has more time with her <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Andrew, 44. The couple, who have no children, plan to <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ more time abroad — thanks to the business. 'My friends think I'm mad to work these hours,' she says. 'But I love my job.'

PART B

Put these statements in the order that they appear in the text (Numbers from 1 To 9)

A the number of people in Britain who are self-employed. \_\_\_\_\_

B Annette Fish burn's previous job \_\_\_\_\_

C Where professor Simon parker works \_\_\_\_\_

D the reasons why self-employed people work long hours \_\_\_\_\_

E What Annette \_\_\_\_\_

F, Which groups of people professor parker studied \_\_\_\_\_

G working hours for employed and self-employed men \_\_\_\_\_

H the name of Annette Fishburn's new company and what it does \_\_\_\_\_

I working hours for employed and self-employed women \_\_\_\_\_