

READING & LISTENING

WORK, HOME *or* WORK FROM HOME?

*Today, people don't have to clock in at the office every weekday.
Now the jobs go where the talents are.*

Telecommuting, the practice of working from home, is on the rise, and more companies are trusting their employees to be more productive in their own home offices than they might be at the workplace. Wrike, a company that makes collaboration software, conducted a survey with 1,074 respondents, asking them a variety of questions about working from home.

According to the survey, 83% of the respondents said they work remotely at least part of the day. Of the 1,074 respondents in the survey, 36% were team members, 33% were managers, 15% were business owners and 15% were executives.

The survey showed that people see a rising trend in the future of remote collaboration: 43% of respondents worked remotely less often two to three years ago, and 66% believe their office may go fully virtual in one to five years.

The survey also found the higher the position in the company, the more time the person

spends working outside the office.

Business owners worked nearly 30 hours a week from home, executives worked about 20 hours, managers worked between 10 and 20 hours, while team members worked up to about 10 hours.

When asked how much we are ready to 'pay' for the opportunity to work remotely:

- 78% would forego free meals
- 54% would forego employer-paid cellphone plans
- 31% would accept a reduction in paid vacation
- 25% would accept a reduction in salary.

The survey also found 89% of respondents consider the opportunity to work remotely as one of three main perks, the other two being salary and reputation.

When asked if consumer social communication tools help in remote collaboration, 91% said they would happily abandon social communication tools. The survey found that people spend no more than one hour a day on Facebook, Twitter and Skype™.

Good and bad aspects of remote collaboration

Perceived benefits, according to the survey, include:

- saving time (41%)
- increased productivity (29%)
- focus on work, not office policies (10%).

The 'challenges' include:

- lack of direct communication (37%)
- data accessibility is hindered (21%)
- poor visibility into colleagues' activity (1%).



- 1) Read the article and decide if the following sentences are TRUE (T) or FALSE (F):

- a** Companies allow telecommuting because they believe it is more productive.
- b** The survey only included people who worked for themselves.
- c** The biggest group of telecommuters in the survey were executives.
- d** Nearly half of the participants in the survey work from home more often than four years ago.
- e** People in top positions spend less time working outside the office than those lower down.
- f** Most people would be prepared to earn less if they could work from home.
- g** Social networks like Facebook are very important to telecommuters.

2) Listen to 2 interviews and decide: Which speaker ...? Write 1 or 2

- a** has children? _____
- b** lives in the country? _____
- c** doesn't have fixed hours? _____
- d** gets up later than before? _____
- e** wears her slippers to work? _____
- f** is self-employed? _____
- g** works for a company? _____

3) Listen again and complete the chart:

	Speaker 1	Speaker 2
Country		
What did she do before?		
What does she do now?		

*hotel concierge: a person who has charge of the entrance of a building and special services for guests.