INTERMEDIATE UNIT 4

1 Work in pairs and discuss.

1 What is a typical working day like in your country?

2 Is working from home an option for many workers?

2 Read the title of the article. What do you think the article will be about?

1 How we use technology at work and how it makes us work faster.

2 The types of jobs people do and how jobs will change.

3 Changes in how and where we work.

3 Read the article about how the working day has changed and answer the questions.

1 What happened to working days in the last century?

2 What has changed the way we work most of all?

3 Where couldn't people work in the past but can now?

4 What can people do if they are on the move?

5 What might happen in the future?



Comments 9 0

From fields and factories to the comfort of your sofa

The world of work has changed so much in the last few years, but what will it look like in the future? Two hundred years ago, the majority of people worked in fields on farms, working long hours and doing backbreaking work for little money. Then, for many countries, came industrialisation and the beginning of a modern urban life.

We saw the greatest changes in the last century, with people working shorter days and the beginning of the 9-to-5 routine and office life. The types of jobs we do have also changed dramatically, with people working more in the service industries, such as finance and banking. An even greater change has been where we work and when, due to technology.

Since the 1990s technology has advanced rapidly, with the greatest change being the birth of the internet. People now seem to spend most of their working days reading and sending emails in order to complete their daily tasks. The internet has also made an important difference to where people do their work and there is a growing trend for people to spend more time out of the office and working from home or in connected environments, such as cafés.

In many towns and cities across the world it has been common for some time now to see people tapping on their laptop keyboards in cafes, using the free wifi to get their work done. There has also been a huge increase in the number of people renting 'hot desks' for the day or even a few hours, so they can get their work done while on the move.

What about the future? How will we work in 100 years' time? Maybe the idea of a work-free weekend and 9-to-5 working will no longer exist. People will be able to choose when and where they want to work.

4 Read the article again. Find words/phrases that match the definitions 1–6.

1 very heavy or hard work
2 because of
3 everyday jobs
4 places that have the internet
5 typing
6 very big

5 Work in pairs and discuss.

1 Where do you prefer to work or study?

2 What time of day do you prefer to work and why?

6 4.1 Listen to a job interview and answer the questions.

1 What kind of job has Zahra applied for?

2 Do you think she did well in the interview?

7 Listen again and answer the questions.

1 What is Margaret's job?

2 When did Zahra leave college?

3 What was Zahra promoted to?

4 Why does she enjoy her job?

5 Is Zahra an organised or disorganised worker?

6 What does she like most about the job she is doing now?

8 The words/phrases in the box are from the recording. Complete the sentences with the words/phrases.

application	promoted	deadline
schedule	strength	current job

1 My last job was working for a software company and my _____ is with an internet provider.

2 She was _____ because she worked very hard.

3 You must send your _____ for the job before you can be selected for interview.

4 The team has a _____ for the coming month that includes working weekends.

5 I believe my greatest _____ is being efficient.

6 The _____ for completing the job is 1st February.

9 Work in pairs and discuss.

1 What tasks are you good at?

2 Are you an organised person?

3 Do you think it is easy or difficult to do well in a job interview?

LIVEWORKSHEETS