

UNIT 8 READING QUIZ

Read the article. Then answer the questions that follow.

Freelancing

- 1 The **etymology** of the term "freelance" is the combination of two words: "free," meaning independent, and "lance," referring to a weapon. The original freelancer was a soldier who was available for hire by whichever person or nation was willing to pay him the most. In modern times, the term has evolved to mean a self-employed person who works for various companies on a short-term or project-by-project basis. Freelancers are writers, project managers, corporate consultants, or even doctors and nurses. Though typically only an option for highly experienced workers in the past, these days freelancing has become a popular option for people just entering the job market. Even so, it is important to examine the pros and cons of freelancing carefully before choosing this option.
- 2 The benefits of freelance work are many: choosing when and where you want to work, declining jobs or projects that don't appeal to you, having the opportunity to collaborate with many different workers, supervisors, and organizations, and perhaps being able to apply your skills in different industries and areas of the world. Freelancers can usually choose the work schedule that best suits them. After all, some people work best in the morning; others work best at night. Household chores, lunch dates, and doctors' appointments can be scheduled for **whenever it suits them**. Freelancers often have less or no commuting needs, and, depending on the task, they might not even have to be at home to do their work. Coffee shops are often dotted with freelancers on laptops. And if a freelancer is offered work that is not appealing, they can turn it down – if doing so is an affordable option, that is. Probably the most popular benefit of freelancing, though, is variety. Freelancers often get to collaborate with more people and with more different types of companies than someone working with the same people at the same location every day. This can make the **daily grind** of work life more interesting and help people expand their professional network.
- 3 There are, of course, disadvantages to being a freelancer as well. Freelancers have no predictable salary to rely on. Plus, there are usually administrative tasks unrelated to their main occupation that must be done, tasks that might be done for them if they were working full time for a company. Such tasks could include billing and paying invoices, photocopying, and handling paperwork, which, particularly for **creative types** like graphic designers, might be stressful and frustrating. In addition, freelancers are always looking for their next job, and also thinking about how much they are earning from their current work. Is it enough, or should they take on more in order to pay the bills? Finally, being a freelancer is a huge responsibility. Instead of having the support of a boss, they are the boss. The praise and credit for the work is all theirs, but so too is all the blame or criticism. **The buck stops with them**. This degree of individual responsibility can feel like isolation for some people.
- 4 In short, working as a freelancer can be a wonderful, satisfying career choice, but it is not the right choice for everyone. Understanding the pros and cons is important for anyone who is considering becoming a freelancer, either as a first career move or by making the move from a full- or part-time position to becoming their own boss.

PART A: KEY SKILLS

1 **USING CONTEXT CLUES** Find the words in bold in the article. Then use context clues to answer the questions.

- 1 What is the **etymology** of a word?
 - a its modern definition
 - b its origin and history
 - c its pronunciation and spelling
- 2 How can the expression **whenever it suits them** best be paraphrased?
 - a anytime you feel something is appropriate, based on what is customary
 - b anytime you are forced to do something, based on your responsibilities
 - c anytime you feel like doing something, based on what seems right to you
- 3 What is the meaning of the **daily grind**?
 - a lunch break
 - b excitement
 - c routine
- 4 What are **creative types** in this context?
 - a artistic people
 - b freelancers
 - c administrative assistants
- 5 What is the best way to interpret the idiom **the buck stops with them**?
 - a They should only accept U.S. dollars as payment for services.
 - b Their clients, not the freelancers, have the final decision-making responsibility.
 - c They are the boss, and the boss makes all of the final decisions.

PART B: ADDITIONAL SKILLS

2 Answer the questions.

- 1 What are two examples of freelancers mentioned in the article?

- 2 What are two drawbacks of freelance work?

- 3 What are two benefits of freelance work?

- 4 Who is probably the intended audience for this article?

- 5 What is the main point of the article?

UNIT 8 READING QUIZ

UNIT 8 LANGUAGE QUIZ

PART A: KEY VOCABULARY

1 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in the box.

consistent differentiate display enhance exclusively fundamental isolate phenomenon

- 1 That annoying sound seems to be coming from everywhere! Can you please _____ the source and make it stop?
- 2 The format of the document has to be _____ with the format of the other documents in the series.
- 3 People with the flu _____ certain symptoms, like headaches, congestion, and tiredness.
- 4 Jennifer's twin decided to get a haircut in order to _____ her appearance from her sister's.
- 5 Adding a little bit of salt to sweet things will _____ the flavor.
- 6 Using social media to find a date is a modern _____ that my grandparents do not understand.
- 7 This MBA program is _____ for people who want to focus on finance. It is not for those interested in general business.
- 8 Understanding how cells work is a _____ concept of biology.

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in the box.

accomplish apparently coordinate decline detract from distraction gesture underlie

- 1 The most important thing he _____ as CEO was to turn the company around so that it consistently made a profit after years of losing money.
- 2 As a _____ of respect, I let the boss choose which chair to sit in before I sat down.
- 3 The fact that he wears glasses does not _____ his handsomeness. In fact, it makes him better looking.
- 4 I thought that she was a freelancer, but _____ she works here full time because I see her in the office every day.
- 5 The hope is that this birthday party will be a nice _____ from all the stress we've been under lately.
- 6 The country's economic problems _____ all of the other challenges facing us right now.
- 7 The sales department needs to _____ with the marketing department so that the schedule for the project can be planned out for the next three years.
- 8 Unfortunately, my grandfather's health has _____, and he is back in the hospital.

PART B: LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

- 3** **LANGUAGE FOR HEDGING** Rewrite the italicized sections of the student's paragraph so that they are hedged statements.

Here are a few observations about Italy, based on the month I spent in Venice. First, ⁽¹⁾ *everyone thinks* that Italy is a wonderful place to visit or live. Its scenery, history, architecture, and food are ⁽²⁾ *loved by everyone*. ⁽³⁾ *Italians eat* a lot of cheese, meat, and pasta. If you decide to travel there, ⁽⁴⁾ *you will definitely love it*. Finally, unlike other parts of the world, ⁽⁵⁾ *Italy is a rich country*.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

QUIZ