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Vocabulary

Read the sentences and then match each item in bold with the meaning below. In each set, one item relates to types of workers; the other relates to types of work.

(A) I design book covers. I used to work for a big publisher, but a few years ago I became a **freelancer**. There are quite a few advantages to **self-employment**, but one thing I don't enjoy is billing my clients.

→ finding work for yourself instead of working for an employer, possibly having your own business: _____¹

→ a person who sells their work or services to different companies: _____²

(B) I live in London and I'm a web developer. Actually, I'm a **contractor** and I've just started a new job in Manchester! I'm lucky that they're happy to have me **working remotely**.

→ a person or company that takes a contract to provide materials or labor to perform a service or do a job but without all the benefits of being a full employee: _____¹

→ a way of working where you don't have to be in the office all the time - it relies on using technology to keep in touch with the employer: _____²

(C) I'm a **digital nomad** so I can work anywhere and anytime I like. This week, my office is a balcony with a view of the beach in Portugal. I really love **working flexibly** like this – I was going to spend some time in Italy next month, but I have to go to a meeting back at the office in London.

→ a way of working which allows you to choose when and where you work: _____¹

→ a person who can work anywhere in the world because they use technology to keep in touch with their employer; they can travel around to enjoy different locations or live more cheaply: _____²





(D) I'm an apprentice engineer at a factory that makes cardboard boxes. It's more interesting than it sounds, but it's **shift work** so I sometimes have to work all night.

→ a person who is learning new skills on the job and is also paid a small amount of money: _____¹

→ a system where the workplace is always open, and workers have to come in at different times of the day and night: _____²

(E) I've had a lot of different jobs in my time. Right now, I'm **working on a zero-hours contract** for a food delivery service. I've also been a temporary employee in a call center.

→ a way of working which depends on how much work is available; the employer does not have to offer you a minimum number of hours: _____¹

→ a person who has arranged to work in a company for a short period of time: _____²

(F) I've just graduated with a degree in fashion and now I'm an intern at a kids' clothing company. I like it here and I'm hoping this will lead to some **full-time work**.

→ a person who works in a company for a limited time to get the experience of a job, often without being paid: _____¹

→ a type of job that takes up all of a working week: _____²

Answer these questions.

1. Sometimes we refer to *working remotely* as *WFH*. What do these letters stand for?
2. What's the opposite of *full-time work*?
3. What's the opposite of a *temporary employee*?



There are lots of reasons why people might not be working. Complete the sentences with these items.

a) parental leave	b) laid off	c) on strike	d) unemployed
e) retired	f) fired	g) sick leave	

1. After more than 35 years' service, my uncle _____ from his job. He's seventy.
2. Henry was _____ because he insulted one of the company's most important clients.
3. I'm glad to get back to work after taking a few months _____, but I really miss the baby.
4. She's been _____ for a while, but she's applying for at least five jobs every week.
5. Some people have had to take extended _____ due to the effects of long covid.
6. The company had to cut costs, so they got rid of several people in the sales department. They were _____.
7. The sign says that the shop is closed because the workers are _____ for higher wages.

Answer these questions.

1. *Sacked* is a synonym for one of these terms – which one?
2. Sometimes *parental leave* is called *maternity leave* for women. What is it called for men?
3. In which of these situations are people still being paid?

