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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?