

# 66 Ways of working

## A Freelance work: the pros and cons

- You are not accountable to anyone but yourself.
- Working for a number of employers gives you an insight into different companies.
- You may be better off, and you don't have to rely solely on one company.
- Working from home makes it easier to balance work and family responsibilities.
- You don't have a guaranteed income or additional financial benefits, e.g. a company pension.
- You will encounter quiet periods, a degree of isolation, and perhaps loneliness.
- Work can get in the way of your home life and your free time.

### SPOTLIGHT *degree*

A **degree of sth** is a certain level or amount of sth, and it is commonly used in these ways:

- *Cooking requires a degree of skill.*
- *I have a (greater) degree of freedom in my new job.*
- *I can do what I like, to a degree.* SYN **to an extent**

### GLOSSARY

<b>freelance</b>	earning money by selling your work or services to different organizations rather than being employed by just one <b>freelance adv</b>
<b>the pros and cons (of sth)</b>	the advantages and disadvantages of sth
<b>accountable to sb</b>	responsible for your decision or actions and expected to explain them if asked. If you are <b>not accountable to anyone</b> , you are <b>your own boss</b> .
<b>insight into sth</b>	a clear understanding of what sth is like: <b>have / give sb insight into sth</b>
<b>be better off solely</b>	have more money OPP <b>be worse off</b> only, not involving sb/sth else: <b>be solely responsible for sth</b>
<b>balance A and/ with B</b>	give equal importance to two contrasting things
<b>guarantee</b>	promise that sth will happen <b>guaranteed adj; guarantee n</b>
<b>additional</b>	more than is usual, or mentioned before SYN <b>extra</b>
<b>encounter</b>	experience sth, especially sth unpleasant or difficult
<b>get in the way (of sth)</b>	prevent sb from doing sth, or prevent sth happening

### 1 Underline the main stress on these words and phrases. Use the to help you.

freelance accountable insight guarantee additional encounter

### 2 Replace the underlined words with a word or phrase that has a similar meaning.

- 1 We experienced a few problems during the project.
- 2 There is a certain amount of stress working freelance.
- 3 I enjoy being my own boss.
- 4 The project gave me an understanding of how the company works.
- 5 She tried to give equal importance to her career and her family.
- 6 There are various advantages and disadvantages with regular employment.
- 7 I could do what I liked in the job, to a degree.
- 8 Looking after the children sometimes prevents me from doing my work.

### 3 Complete the text with suitable words or phrases.

I was a (1) ..... designer for 10 years. I liked being my own (2) ..... and the fact that I was (3) ..... responsible for everything I did. Naturally, I (4) ..... a certain (5) ..... of isolation, but I didn't mind that, and I was generally (6) ..... off, so I was able to buy a nice house. However, when I had children, the work did get (7) ..... of my family life, so I went back to a regular job with a (8) ..... income, plus the (9) ..... benefits of a company car and pension.

### 4 ABOUT YOU Have you ever worked freelance? If so, did you enjoy the same advantages and encounter similar problems? Write your answers, or talk to another student.



### TEST YOURSELF

## B Working in a team: the pros and cons

- ✓ Working as part of a team with a common goal fosters team spirit.
- ✓ Collaboration and mutual feedback are fulfilling and make people feel valued.
- ✓ Bringing together diverse skills is generally more productive.
- ✗ If someone doesn't fit in, that can be disruptive for the whole team.
- ✗ Teams can suppress individual enterprise and initiative.
- ✗ Individuals can sometimes get away with being lazy.

### GLOSSARY

<b>part</b>	a person or thing that, working together with others, forms part of a single unit: <i>part of a team</i>	<b>value</b>	think that sb/sth is important
<b>foster</b>	help sth to develop <b>SYN encourage, promote</b>	<b>diverse</b>	different from each other and of various kinds
<b>team spirit</b>	loyal feelings towards a group, team, or society	<b>fit in (with sb/sth)</b>	be accepted by the others in a group
<b>collaboration (with sb)</b>	the act of working with others to produce sth	<b>disruptive</b>	causing problems, and making it hard to continue with sth
<b>mutual</b>	used to describe a feeling that two people have for each other equally: <i>mutual respect/trust</i>	<b>suppress</b>	prevent sth from growing, developing or continuing
<b>fulfilling</b>	giving personal satisfaction <b>SYN rewarding: fulfil v</b>	<b>enterprise</b>	the ability to think of new ideas and make them successful
		<b>initiative</b>	the ability to take decisions and act alone: <i>use your initiative</i>
		<b>get away with sth</b>	avoid doing sth, or manage to do less than expected

### 5 Positive or negative? Write P or N.

- 1 He showed enterprise during the project. ....
- 2 She can be disruptive in the office. ....
- 3 I don't feel valued. ....
- 4 The work was fulfilling. ....
- 5 The team members have diverse skills. ....
- 6 He doesn't use his initiative. ....
- 7 She gets away with poor-quality work. ....
- 8 There is mutual trust between the members. ....

### 6 Rewrite the sentences without using the underlined words. Keep the same meaning.

- 1 He wasn't accepted by the others. He didn't ..... .
- 2 She can act on her own. She can ..... .
- 3 They did most of it together. There was a lot ..... .
- 4 He escaped without punishment. He got ..... .
- 5 I need someone to think up new ideas. I need someone with ..... .
- 6 They have a lot of respect for each other. They have a lot of ..... .

### 7 Complete the sentences with suitable words from the top of the page.

- 1 My boss appreciates what I do, and that helps me to feel ..... .
- 2 To feel ..... of a team, it helps to have a manager who works to build team ..... .
- 3 You need people who will ..... a good atmosphere in the team.
- 4 The people in my office are all different and all from very ..... backgrounds.
- 5 One colleague has a lot of loud phone calls, and that is ..... for others in the group.
- 6 I used to work for a boss who tried to ..... any individual enterprise, which was very frustrating. With my new boss, however, I enjoy the work and find it very ..... .

### 8 ABOUT YOU Do you agree with the pros and cons above? Can you think of any others? Write your answers, or talk to another student.

