








# 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<br><b>freelance</b> <i>adv</i>              |
| <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:<br><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:<br><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<br><b>guaranteed</b> <i>adj</i> ; <b>guarantee</b> <i>n</i>   |
| <b>additional</b>                 | more than is usual, or mentioned before<br>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.

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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:<br><b>part of a team</b> | <b>value</b>                | think that sb/sth is important   |
| <b>foster</b>                  | help sth to develop SYN <b>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:<br><b>mutual respect/trust</b>      | <b>suppress</b>             | prevent sth from growing, developing or continuing                         |
| <b>fulfilling</b>              | giving personal satisfaction<br>SYN <b>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:<br><b>use your initiative</b> |
|                                |   | <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. .... | 5 The team members have diverse skills. ....      |
| 2 She can be disruptive in the office. ....     | 6 He doesn't use his initiative. ....             |
| 3 I don't feel valued. ....                     | 7 She gets away with poor-quality work. ....      |
| 4 The work was fulfilling. ....                 | 8 There is mutual trust between the members. .... |

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

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

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

- My boss appreciates what I do, and that helps me to feel .....
- To feel ..... of a team, it helps to have a manager who works to build team .....
- You need people who will ..... a good atmosphere in the team.
- The people in my office are all different and all from very ..... backgrounds.
- One colleague has a lot of loud phone calls, and that is ..... for others in the group.
- 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.

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