READING

4A Read the article. Choose the topics (a–h) which it mentions.

a having more free time
b working fewer hours
c being able to concentrate more
d meeting deadlines
e falling behind schedule
f avoiding distractions
g putting off difficult tasks
h getting help from colleagues

Is remote working good for workers?

Recently, there has been a significant increase in the number of people who work from home. Studies show that this kind of remote working has advantages for businesses, but is it also good for employees? We talk to two home-based workers and ask them: is working from home a good idea?



B Read the article again and answer the questions. Write T (Tinh) or X (Ximena).

1 Who enjoys having more time for their life outside of work?
2 Who finds it easy to lose focus when they work at home?
3 Who works at home some of the time?
4 Who thinks that an office environment is more distracting?
5 Who mentions doing housework during their work hours?
6 Who has more time for exercise?
7 Who doesn't work at a desk when they're working from home?
8 Who mentions asking their colleagues for help?

C Read the article again. Complete the sentences with words from the text.

1 For Tinh, the greatest advantage of remote working is that he has more time and _____ for himself.
2 Tinh appreciates the fact that he doesn't need to spend any time _____ to work.
3 Tinh prefers working from home because there aren't as many _____ or interruptions as there are in an office environment.
4 Tinh sees the people he works with online, so he doesn't feel _____ from them.
5 Ximena thinks that real life _____ is important for people who work in a team.
6 Ximena says that some people don't have enough space at home for a separate place to _____.
7 Ximena needs the _____ of working in an office to do her work.

YES

Tinh, HR manager

It's great that more companies are offering employees the opportunity to work remotely. I've been working from home for years and, for me, there are definitely more advantages than disadvantages. The biggest benefit is having more time and energy for my personal life. I don't waste time commuting to work, so I have more time with family and friends. When I worked in the office, I spent over an hour every morning travelling to work. Now, I spend that time going for a run or taking my kids to school.

Another benefit is that it's easier to focus on my work at home because there are fewer distractions or interruptions. In the office, my colleagues would stop at my desk for a chat and I'd lose concentration. I get much more work done when I'm by myself. But I don't feel isolated from my colleagues because I meet up with them online for a coffee a couple of times a week, as well as seeing them at meetings.

NO

Ximena, senior marketing manager

Working from home might suit some people, but I don't think it's a good idea for the majority. When you work from home, you lose face-to-face contact with your colleagues, something which is important when you work in a team. You also get more support when you're in an office environment. It's much easier to ask a quick question in person than to send an email and wait for a reply.

Also, not everyone has room to create a separate work area in their home, which makes it difficult to focus on work. I work from home two days a week. I have to work on my laptop on the sofa and it's hard to concentrate. I also find it impossible to avoid distractions, and I stop in the middle of a task to tidy up the living room or clean the kitchen. I need the routine of going into an office to motivate me to get my work done, and I think that's the same for lots of people.

LIVEWORKSHEETS