

Audioscript

Listening comprehension

For items 1–10 listen to a passage from a lecture and decide whether the statements (1–10) are TRUE (a), or FALSE (b) according to the text you hear. You will hear the text twice.

You have 20 seconds to study the statements.

(pause 20 seconds)

Now we begin.

Teleworking literally means working at a distance, that is, far from the office or normal place of work, usually, though not always this means working at home, but that's not to say that everyone who works at home is a teleworker. Teleworking, also called e-working or telecommuting, has come to mean specifically working at home, but communicating with the office by telephone or computer link. Related to teleworking is distance learning or telestudying, as it can also be called. And much of what I have to say about teleworking also applies to distance learning and teaching.

There's been a rapid increase in the number of teleworkers and telestudents over the past ten years or so. Naturally, this growth in the number of teleworkers affects only certain occupations. Workers involved include those in the information sector especially, but also business professionals and scientists, and also teachers. In some cases people are being persuaded or even forced to become telecommuters, but often they choose to do so themselves.

Why do people choose to work at home? Well, there are a number of advantages for the workers and also for the people who employ them, and for the society in general. Let's look at these.

First of all, what are the advantages for the worker? I would say the main advantage is that less time is spent commuting, that is, travelling to and from work. Someone working in a big city like London can easily spend an hour or more travelling to work and the same amount of time returning home. Two or three hours a day can therefore be saved, and this is the time that can be spent in more profitable ways than sitting in a train or car.

Commuting is quite stressful and teleworking eliminates that stress. Not having to travel saves not only time but also money. Bus or train fares can amount to hundreds of pounds a year. Motoring costs are also high. Working at home can be more convenient than working in an office. Work time can be scheduled to suit the worker rather than the boss. Breaks can be taken as and when needed rather than according to fixed schedules. And it's generally pleasant working in the comfort of your own home...

You have 20 seconds to check your answers.

(pause 20 seconds)

Now listen to the text again.

(text repeated)

You have 20 seconds to check your answers.

(pause 20 seconds)

For items 11–15 listen to the dialogue. Choose the correct answer (A, B or C) to answer questions 11–15. You will hear the text only once.

You now have 25 seconds to study the questions.

(pause 25 seconds)

Now we begin.

The Commuter

Jane: How are things, Ron?

Ron: Not bad, Jane. I'm involved in too many problems and it's a long working day, but I'm used to it, so it doesn't bother me too much.

Jane: How do you like commuting to London every day? Don't you find it a strain?

Ron: It was ghastly at first – especially getting up before dawn to catch that 6.30 train. But it's bearable now that I'm used to it.

Jane: Don't you think it's an awful waste of time? I couldn't bear to spend three hours sitting in a train every day.

Ron: I used to feel the same as you, but now I quite enjoy it.

Jane: How do you pass the time?

Ron: In the morning I just sit in comfort and read the papers to catch up with the news; on the way home at night I relax with a good book, or have a nap, or chat with friends or even have a game of bridge.

Jane: I suppose you know lots of people on the train now.

Ron: Yes, I bump into someone I know on the platform every day. Last week I came across a couple of old school friends and we spent the entire journey in the bar.

Jane: It sounds like a good club. You never know, I may join it!

This is the end of the listening comprehension part. You have 1 minute to complete your answer.