

Is working from home really the new normal?



BEFORE WATCHING

What are the advantages and disadvantages to working from home as opposed to working in an office?

WATCH THE VIDEO AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. What happened during the Industrial Revolution?
2. What happened thanks to the rise of the internet? What didn't change then?
3. Why are offices inefficient?
4. What might happen because of the Covid pandemic?
 - renting offices
 - working hours
5. What are knowledge jobs? Why is their location important?
6. What's the link between the country's GDP and the percentage of people working remotely?
7. How have women been affected by the recession caused by COVID-19? Why?
8. Is it likely that we will continue working from home in the long run?
9. What are the two things that can't be fostered when working from home?
10. How might offices and working conditions change in the future?

AFTER WATCHING

After watching the video, would you like to add anything to your list of advantages and disadvantages?

What is your opinion on working remotely?

If you were given a choice, which option would you go for?

NUMBERS

Look at the sentences taken from the video and answer the extra questions:

1. Covid-19 is transforming people's relationship to work, with **millions** now out of a job and many more getting used to working in a very different way.

Read the following numbers: 2,000,000 3,000,000,000
2. The proportion of Americans working from home full-time has gone from **1 in 50** to more than **1 in 3**.

What's another way to express 1 in 50?

What's another way to express 1 in 3?
3. Covid has been a transformation and that raises a whole **bunch** of questions.

What does the word *bunch* mean? When can we use it?
4. We've had **200-odd** years since the internet and office's design is really only starting to reflect the real possibilities of that change.

What does 200-odd mean?
5. Companies spend **on average** 10,000 dollars on office space per employee every year.

What does *on average* mean?
6. The most expensive office real estate is in Hong Kong, where every square foot costs on average **265** dollars per year.

How do you read 265?
7. The need for social distancing in the wake of the pandemic could reduce the number of staff in London offices by **two thirds**, making the office look like an expensive artifact.

Read the following fractions: $1/3$ $2/3$ $3/5$
8. Before that, people were paid based on how much they made rather than the **amount** of time they spent at work.

What's the difference between *amount* and *number*?
9. And Facebook says half its staff could be working remotely in **a decade**.

How long is a decade? What about a century? And a fortnight?
10. So Americans living in agglomerations with **more than** a million people are **more than** 50% more productive than ones living in metros with smaller populations.

What's another way to say *more than*?