

INGLÊS

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Text I

If you think you need an office in a gleaming glass tower to run a million dollar company, it's time to meet people who work from their homes, surrounded by computers, printers, a fax machine and a modem. "I can do my thing without any interruption," says one of those successful home-based workers. Approximately 39 million Americans do all or part of their work in their homes, a 56.6 percent increase over the last five years.

Of that number, the largest segment – 12.1 million, or 31 percent of the total – are self-employed individuals who work at home full-time. Typically they operate home businesses or freelance as consultants or contract workers. Another 11.7 million hold multiple jobs and work from home part of the time. Telecommuters – employees who work at home but are linked to their companies by a telephone, a modem, and a personal computer – account for another 6.6 million. The last segment, described as "high-tech corporate after-hours homeworkers," number 8.6 million. They use computers and other electronic hardware to do company work at home after normal business hours.

Many people have worked at home in the past – doctors, writers, farmers. These days the home holds a far more diverse group of workers. Lawyers, bookkeepers, architects, secretaries, graphic designers, researchers and publicists use electronics to send, retrieve, and process information and data without stepping out their doors. The tool behind the trend is the personal computer.

Managers, however, may still need to cling to traditional corridors of power. So far, most managers are reluctant to work from home during normal business hours. Visibility is important. Out of sight, out of mind.

Social and economic factors are involved. Working from home, for example, allows parents to spend more time with their children, an important issue for both dual-career and single-parent households. The biggest psychological benefit of working from home is control over your life. You decide when you get up, when you go to bed, how you pace yourself.

Proponents cite a number of other benefits of working from home. In a recent survey, it was found that 85% of respondents feel more relaxed, 40% enjoy a healthier diet, 39% take more time off and 88% say they would never return to the corporate world again.

Freedom, however, poses its own problems. The biggest advantage is that you are in charge of everything. And the biggest disadvantage is that you are in charge of everything. Typical problems include a sense of isolation, lack of motivation, and, conversely, the feeling that you can never get away from your work.

Most home-based workers say, however, that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. Once they have tasted the work-from-home life, there is no turning back.

(by Bob Cooper, in VIS À VIS)

01 "'I can do my thing without any interruption,' says one of those successful home-based workers." (lines 4-5). If we report this statement, we will have:

- (A) one of those successful home-based workers says that he could do my thing without any interruption.
- (B) one of the successful home-based workers has said that he can do my thing without any interruption.
- (C) one of the successful home-based workers had said that he could do his thing without any interruption.
- (D) one of those successful home-based workers said that he could do his thing without any interruption.

(E) one of those successful home-based workers reported he can do anything without interruption.

02 In the first paragraph (lines 1-7) the author tells us that:

- (A) successful companies need to be run from impressive towers.
- (B) million dollar companies can do without high technology.
- (C) home-based workers are extremely successful.
- (D) there is a growing trend of workers who are home-based.
- (E) people who work from their homes are often interrupted.

03 According to the third paragraph, doctors, lawyers, secretaries, writers and researchers have in common the fact that they:

- (A) used to work at home with high-tech equipment.
- (B) have always had fancy offices at home.
- (C) preferred to work outside home.
- (D) may use their homes as offices.
- (E) worked from home in the past.

04 "I can do my thing without any interruption..." (l.4-5) "Managers ... may still need to cling to traditional corridors of power." (l.27-28)

In both sentences the modal auxiliaries indicate possibility. Check the sentence in which the modal doesn't suggest the idea written after the dash:

- (A) She looks so pale; she must be very sick. – obligation.
- (B) If you pass the entrance examination, you shall get a brand new car. – promise.
- (C) Need they bring that dog with them? – necessity.
- (D) Might I borrow that stapler? – permission.
- (E) Those girls should start studying hard at once. – advice.

05 "The biggest advantage is that you are in charge of everything. And the biggest disadvantage is that you are in charge of everything." (lines 42-44)

By marking this statement, the author...

- (A) exposes how contradictory he is, and how unsure of this own ideas.
- (B) blames freedom for all the disadvantages of working from home.
- (C) suggests that he never sees as an advantage what other consider disadvantage.
- (D) highlights the fact that being lonely is a consequence of home-based work.
- (E) says that freedom may be a double-edged sword, bringing both advantages and disadvantages.