

I'm working from home

The British use the lounge or dining room while the French prefer the bedroom. Location is not the only difference between Britons and the rest of Europe when it comes to choosing a place to work for a company from home and not at the office.

There is more paranoia in the ranks of British homeworkers about working from home while colleagues are confined to the office, the evidence suggests. Half of the British homeworkers, according to a survey, said they e-mailed or telephoned a colleague early in the morning to prove they were working, while only 14 per cent of German homeworkers felt it necessary to check in and demonstrate they were working hard.

There are also national differences in the motivation for homeworking. The French see it as a way to a healthier lifestyle with an emphasis on more regular exercise and enjoying the benefits of home cooking at the expense of junk food. For the Spanish the interaction with the family is a principal reason for homeworking, while for the Germans it is the opportunity to increase their income. Overall, fewer British work from home than in the rest of Europe, although more would like the opportunity to do so, and less stress is seen as one of the main reasons for making the switch. The study predicts that by 2005 around 11 per cent (16 millions) of the European Union workforce will be working from home either permanently or for part of the working day.

QUESTIONS:

1. Write a summary of the text in English, including the most important points using your own words (approximately 50 words; 1 point).

2. Mark the following sentences true/false (T/F) according to the text. Then write the part (and ONLY that part) of the text which justifies your answer (1 point; 0,25 each).

- People in Spain don't like working from home because they don't like being with their relatives.
- The number of British who would prefer working from home is increasing.

- All the people react the same when working from home.
- The bedroom is the favourite place to work from home.

3. Find words or phrases in the text that correspond in meaning to the words and definitions given here (1 point; 0,25 each).

- selecting
- study
- chance
- change

4. Pronunciation (1 point; 0,25 each).

- Find a word in the text with the diphthong /au/
- Which word corresponds to the transcription / pæɪə 'nɔɪə /
- / 'ɪnkri:s/ or / 'ɪnkris/ for the word increase?
- Find two words in the text with /a:/.

5. Rewrite the following sentences without changing the original meaning. Use the word in brackets and /or the expression given, making the necessary changes. (1.5 points; 0.5 points each).

- There is more paranoia in the ranks of British homeworkers about working from home while colleagues are confined to the office, the evidence suggests. (that)
- Half of the British homeworkers, according to a survey, said they e-mailed or telephoned a colleague early in the morning to prove they were working. (Based on)
- I don't know all the facts. (AWARE)
- "For many firms and many workers homeworking will be a way to reduce costs." The minister remarked that.....

6. Write about 100 to 150 words on one of the following topics. (3 points)

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages you find in homeworking.