



MIXING RESPONSIBILITIES



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:
1AA7-638B-5HKU

1 Warm up

In pairs, discuss the following questions.

1. What is meant by the term *hybrid working*?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of *hybrid working*?

advantages	disadvantages
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2

Listening comprehension

Listen to the conversation and decide if the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

1. The conversation happens in the morning. _____
2. The mother is usually awake before the father. _____
3. The father gave an online presentation today. _____
4. The mother works from home every day. _____
5. The mother is the CEO of her company. _____
6. The father plans to take the children outside tomorrow. _____
7. The father feels as though he doesn't follow the rules he sets for his son. _____

3

Listening discussion

Listen to the conversation again, and, with a partner, discuss the following questions.

1. The father says, 'Some days, I feel on top of it all...' What do you think this means?
2. The mother describes herself as 'an early bird' and the father as 'a night owl'. What does this mean? And which one are you? Why?
3. Have you had to work at home with the rest of your family there? What happened? Did it go well or not? Why?
4. Do you think the couple have a good relationship? Why/why not?
5. Would you prefer to work from home or commute to a workspace? Why?





4

Focus on vocabulary**Part A: Match the words to the definitions.**

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>detrimental</u> (adj.) | a. reduce the negative effects of something |
| 2. <u>minimise</u> (v) | b. give something less importance |
| 3. <u>distressed</u> (adj.) | c. say or do things to make someone feel less worried or scared |
| 4. <u>mitigate</u> (v) | d. a limit of something abstract such as behaviour, subject or area of activity |
| 5. <u>boundary</u> (n) | e. a belief in the way someone should act or perform in a particular situation |
| 6. <u>expectation</u> (n) | f. having feelings of great worry and panic |
| 7. <u>reassure</u> (v) | g. observe a particular action and copy it, consciously or unconsciously, to make it a part of one's nature |
| 8. <u>internalise</u> (v) | h. very harmful or potentially damaging |

Part B: Now, using a different part of speech from the words from Part A in brackets, complete the following sentences. You may need to use a dictionary.

1. The factory closed down in December 1989 to the _____ of the local community and it wasn't long before lack of work and the associated problems started to increase. (detrimental)
2. I worked in Sales for a while, but had _____ interest in the job and soon moved on to other things. (minimise)
3. Rashed was well-respected by his colleagues and many found news of his sudden passing quite _____. (distressed)
4. The poor sales record did have certain _____ factors, such as the recession and a couple of the suppliers going bankrupt. (mitigate)
5. There's nothing we can really do here as we're _____ by the terms of the contract. (boundary)
6. The conference ran into problems when the main hall _____ flooded following heavy rain. (expectation)
7. We need some _____ from them that they will be able to fulfil their side of the agreement. (reassure)
8. HR feel that the police don't need to be involved and we can deal with the matter _____. (internalise)

Now in pairs, discuss the following questions.

1. What habits do you have or have you had in the past which are **detrimental** to your health?
2. When you start a new job, what are your **expectations** from the employer?
3. When was the last time you had to **reassure** someone who was upset or worried? What happened?
4. When you meet someone new, what **boundaries** do you have with topics of conversation?
5. What behaviours did you **internalise** from the people responsible for you when you were growing up?
6. What kind of situations have caused you to feel **distressed** in the past?



5

Skimming for gist

Look at the following extracts from the article on page five. Decide which gaps (a – f) the extracts should go in. You will not need all of the extracts.

1. Now, this is not going to be possible.
2. Children can learn a lot from their parents if they set a positive example.
3. Employers have noted the savings made by not having to provide power and services for large offices.
4. Another problem is that children may be spending more time on game consoles and less doing their school work.
5. There is also the fact that, with home working, parents are able to be there for lunch and snacks and can take a break for a trip to the park.
6. The effect of balancing work and home life can be deeply rewarding for many of them.
7. You can also tell your child a bit about what you do and why doing it is important for them.
8. Communicate with the child that when you are there, you have to concentrate on your job.





Mum is trying to work, darling!

Working and parenting from home

1. It seems not so long ago that working from home was mainly something that the self-employed did. The rest of us got up and went to work, taking our children to school on the way there, and picking them up on the way back. Recent years have changed this, and even though there are signs that the worst of the pandemic may be over, the effect that it has had on our working lives is not. Workers have largely embraced the convenience of not having to commute through cities and traffic to do exactly what they could do from the comfort of their bedrooms and home offices. (a.) _____ It looks as though for many working from home, or at least hybrid working, is likely to become permanent. But what effect is this having on the children who no longer see their parents disappear to work, but are now effectively 'at work' with them. When every day is a 'bring your child to work' day?
2. Recent research has shown that, particularly with younger children, it could have a detrimental effect. When children are around their parents while they are working, they pick up signals that they are not as important as the tablet, phone or laptop. As adults, we've all felt irritated with a friend or colleague who looks at their phone or texts mid-conversation. It's rude and it angers us because we feel minimised. Yet that is how children are feeling all the time, particularly those children who are too young to understand the significance of the work their parents are doing. Additionally, they may experience anxiety if their parents are visibly distressed or angered by their work and feel that it is somehow their fault. It's not a new situation for children to lose out on time with their parents due to long working hours. However, previously, there was the possibility that they could receive their parents' full attention when they were at home. (b.) _____
3. There are a few ways to mitigate this as a home-working parent. Firstly, you can create a specific work space, be it your bedroom, an office or a corner of the living room. (c.) _____ This sets clear boundaries and expectations for the child. (d.) _____ If they understand a little more about your role and the type of work that is taking away your focus, they may well be more accepting of it. You can talk to them about your daily tasks, letting them know in advance when an important meeting is going to happen and they need to be extra quiet, or when they can sit quietly near you. This also needs to be balanced with parents setting limits on themselves and devoting their attention more fully to their kids outside of working hours. If children see that they will have attention when their parent is not in the workspace, they will feel much more reassured and comfortable.
4. It isn't all doom and gloom for homeworkers with children. (e.) _____ When parents happily interact with colleagues and are at ease doing their jobs, this is something that their children will internalise. They can also learn their parents' values, and that work is something that can be fulfilling and enjoyed. Seeing their parents split their time between family and work can, if done positively, help children to understand the importance of both. (f.) _____ The hours potentially lost to commuting can be invested back into family time.

Sources: BBC, *The Conversation*





6

Reading comprehension

Complete the following sentences with one, two, or three words from the article on page five.

1. _____ have been undeniably changed in recent years, and look likely to remain so even after the worst of the pandemic passes by.
2. Children _____ from their parents' behaviour about how important they are, and can often feel left out in favour of mobile devices.
3. If a parent's mood is negatively affected by their work, it can cause the child _____ as they may suspect they are responsible for the problem.
4. Having a _____ at home is a good way of clearly communicating when a child can and can't interact with you during the work day.
5. _____ should be something parents do with their children, but also with themselves to ensure that the child does receive regular attention away from work.
6. Seeing parents _____ with their work is a positive model for children and creates a positive foundation for their own careers.
7. Work and home life are both enormously important and children learning how to _____ so that each receives attention is a valuable lesson.
8. _____ can be gained when parents work from home as they will spend less time commuting.

7

Scanning for vocabulary

Quickly read through the article on page five and find words or phrases which mean the same as the following.

1. _____ working for yourself (paragraph A)
2. _____ ease (paragraph A)
3. _____ annoyed (paragraph B)
4. _____ importance (paragraph B)
5. _____ giving the entirety to something (paragraph C)
6. _____ there is hope (paragraph D)
7. _____ satisfying (paragraph D)



8 Talking point

In pairs, discuss the following questions.

1. What was your reaction to the article? Did you think it was useful? Why/why not?
2. Do you think it is a good thing for parents to be around their children when they are working? Why/why not?
3. What do you predict for the future of working? Do you believe hybrid working will stay with us? Or do you think eventually office work will become what the majority are doing again? Why?
4. How would you define your 'work values'?
5. What would you want your children to learn about work?

9 Extended activity/Homework

Read the following question.

Write a letter to your children for them to read when they are about to start work. Consider the following questions.

1. What advice will you give them?
2. What should they look out for?
3. What should they do in order to do well?
4. What mistakes should they avoid?

You should:

- Write at least 250 words
- Check your spelling, grammar and punctuation

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