

STUDENT'S WORKSHEET · BUSINESS ENGLISH

Who works from home?
The rise of hybrid work

LEVEL
B1 · Intermediate

TIME
60 min

SKILLS
Reading · Speaking · Grammar · Vocabulary

Learning objectives

In this lesson, you can:

- understand an official statistics article
- compare groups with *more / less likely to* and *compared with*
- describe numbers and percentages clearly
- discuss the pros and cons of hybrid work

Key vocabulary

hybrid working · commute · survey · well-being · trend · respondent · a quarter · more likely to · compared with · face-to-face

Materials

- this worksheet
- article: *Who are the hybrid workers?* (Office for National Statistics, UK)

1 Warm up

SPEAKING

Look at the pictures. What can you see? How are they connected to the topic? Then answer the questions with your teacher.



PICTURE A · commuting by train



PICTURE B · a video meeting from home

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1. Where did you work last week: at home, at the office or both?
2. How long is your commute? How do you travel?
3. What do you like and dislike about working from home?

2 Vocabulary preparation

VOCABULARY

Part A: Match the words with the definitions.

trend (n) | survey (n) | well-being (n) | respondent (n) | commute (n) | hybrid working (n)

1. _____ working partly at home and partly at the workplace
2. _____ the journey to and from work
3. _____ a set of questions that many people answer
4. _____ feeling healthy, comfortable and happy
5. _____ the general direction of change
6. _____ a person who answers a survey

Part B: Numbers. Write the percentage.

Example: half = 50%

1. a quarter = _____ %
2. three quarters = _____ %
3. a third = about _____ %
4. more than a quarter = more than _____ %
5. almost half = a bit less than _____ %

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3 Main input: read and learn

READING · GRAMMAR

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is the UK's official statistics office. Read the beginning of its article about hybrid workers, until the end of the section "More time spent on rest, exercise and well-being when working at home".

ARTICLE

Who are the hybrid workers?
Office for National Statistics (UK) · 11 November 2024 · first two parts (about 3 minutes) · free
https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/articles/whoarethehybridworkers/2024-11-11

Read the first paragraphs. Answer: What percentage of working adults in Great Britain were hybrid working in autumn 2024? How much time did people save by not commuting?

Language focus: comparing groups with numbers

Statistics articles use special phrases to compare groups.

Phrase	Example
more / less likely to + verb	Parents were more likely to hybrid work than non-parents.
more common among + group	Hybrid working was more common among those aged over 30.
number + more / fewer + noun	They spent 24 minutes more on sleep and rest.
compared with	29% of over-30s hybrid worked, compared with 19% of 16- to 29-year-olds.

Practice: Complete the sentences with *than, compared, likely, less* or *more*.

1. Parents were more _____ to hybrid work than non-parents.
2. People working at home spent 24 minutes _____ on sleep and rest.
3. Young workers in shops and bars are _____ likely to work from home.
4. 45% of senior managers hybrid worked, _____ with 27% of all workers.
5. Hybrid working is more common among managers _____ among shop assistants.

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4 Reading comprehension

READING

Part A: Read again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)? Circle.

1. More than a quarter of working adults were hybrid working in autumn 2024. T / F
2. Working only from home has increased since 2021. T / F
3. Hybrid working was more common among workers under 30. T / F
4. People saved 56 minutes on average by not commuting. T / F
5. Home workers spent 15 minutes more on exercise, sports and well-being. T / F
6. The ONS is sure that people work less when they are at home. T / F

Part B: More or less likely to hybrid work? Complete the table.

Group	More / less likely
people aged over 30	
parents	
people with higher qualifications	
people in industries with a lot of face-to-face contact	

Part C: Think and answer.

1. What is one business reason for hybrid working, according to the text?

2. The ONS says it can't say how time use affects productivity. Why is it important to be careful with data like this?

3. Would hybrid working be good for your team? Why? / Why not?

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5 Speaking practice and discussion

SPEAKING

Part A: Choose TWO cue cards. Talk about each card with your teacher for 1–2 minutes.

Cue card 1: My commute

- Time and transport
- What I do on the way
- Good or bad?

Cue card 2: My ideal week

- Days at home
- Days at the office
- Why?

Cue card 3: Home office

- My space
- Distractions
- Equipment

Cue card 4: Team communication

- Tools we use
- Problems
- Good practices

Cue card 5: The office of the future

- Size
- Purpose
- Technology

Part B: Answer the questions with your teacher. Give reasons and examples.

1. How do you prefer to work: at the office, at home or both? Why?
2. What do you do with the time you save when you don't commute?
3. Which jobs in your company can't be done from home? Why?
4. How can managers keep a hybrid team connected and motivated?
5. Do you think hybrid work will still be normal in ten years? Why? / Why not?

6 Lesson takeaway and wrap-up

REVIEW

Complete the sentences. Then tell your teacher.

1. Three useful phrases for statistics: _____
2. One fact from the article: _____
3. In my company, people are more likely to _____
4. My opinion about hybrid work in one sentence: _____

Takeaway: In Great Britain, hybrid work is now normal for about a quarter of workers, and home workers gain time for rest and exercise. But data has limits: check what the numbers really say before you draw conclusions.

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+ Optional extension / homework

WRITING

Write a short report (80–100 words) about working patterns in your company or country. Use at least three phrases from the language focus.

Alternative activity:

Do a mini-survey of five colleagues or friends (home, office or hybrid?) and present the results with percentages to your teacher in the next class.

References

Office for National Statistics. (2024, November 11). *Who are the hybrid workers?* https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/articles/whoarethehybridworkers/2024-11-11

Original materials: vocabulary, language examples and exercises were written for NATeacher for B1 learners.

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