

TEACHER'S GUIDE · 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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Teacher's guide

Learning objectives. By the end of the lesson, the student can: understand the main findings of an official statistics article; compare groups with *more / less likely to, more common among, compared with*; describe percentages; discuss hybrid work with reasons.
Total time: approx. 60 minutes — Warm up 6 · Vocabulary 7 · Main input 10 · Comprehension 14 · Speaking 18 · Wrap-up 5. The extension is optional homework.

▶. Main input: about the resource

Resource: *Who are the hybrid workers?*, Office for National Statistics (11 November 2024). Free; no login. https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/articles/whoarethehybridworkers/2024-11-11

What to read: from the beginning until the end of "More time spent on rest, exercise and well-being when working at home" (about 400 words, 3 minutes). The charts are optional. The rest of the article is extra reading for strong students.

Copyright: ONS content is published under the Open Government Licence; we show it from the official page so the student uses the real source.

Key information: 28% of working adults in Great Britain were hybrid working in autumn 2024 (Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, 2–27 October). Working only from home has fallen since 2021; hybrid is the 'new normal' for around a quarter of workers. Hybrid working was more common among people over 30, parents, managers or professionals, people in industries with less face-to-face contact, and people with higher qualifications. Home workers saved an average of 56 minutes from not commuting (Time Use Survey, March 2024) and spent 24 minutes more on sleep and rest and 15 minutes more on exercise, sports and well-being. 'Improved staff well-being' is a frequent business reason for hybrid working. Home workers reported 10 minutes less work, but the ONS can't say if this is chance. Later in the article: 29% of over-30s vs 19% of 16–29s; parents 35% vs non-parents 24%; senior managers 45% vs 27% of all workers.

1. Warm up

6 mins.

Show the pictures. Ask the questions and encourage comparisons: "At home I'm more productive because..."

Possible answers: "The pictures show two ways of working: commuting to the office and meeting from home."
Support: give two columns on the board: home / office. **Challenge:** ask "Which jobs will never be hybrid? Why?"

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2. Vocabulary preparation

7 mins.

The student completes Part A and Part B alone. Check together, say the words aloud and ask the student to repeat the difficult ones.

Part A

1. hybrid working
2. commute
3. survey
4. well-being
5. trend
6. respondent

Part B

1. 25 2. 75 3. 33 4. 25 (e.g. 28%) 5. 50 (e.g. 45%)

British and American English: British *Great Britain* (England, Scotland, Wales) is not the same as the *UK* (which also includes Northern Ireland). Say percentages without "the": "28% of workers". *Hybrid work* is used as a verb in the article ("to hybrid work") — this is new, informal usage.

3. Main input and language focus

10 mins.

Open the page on screen. The student reads the first paragraphs for the gist questions, then the second section. **Answers:** 28% (more than a quarter); 56 minutes on average that day.

Present the language focus in 1–2 minutes: elicit the rule from the examples, then move to the practice.

Practice

1. likely
2. more
3. less
4. compared
5. than

Common mistakes: "more likely that hybrid work" → "more likely **to** hybrid work"; "compared to" is also correct (British English often uses *compared with* in formal writing); "the 28% of workers" → "28% of workers" (no article).

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4. Reading comprehension

14 mins.

The student reads again and works alone. Check together and ask the student to point to the evidence.

Part A

1. T (28%) 2. F (it has fallen) 3. F (over 30) 4. T 5. T 6. F (they can't say; it may be chance)

Part B

over 30: more · parents: more · higher qualifications: more · a lot of face-to-face contact: less

Part C

1. Improved staff well-being. 2. Open answer, e.g. "Because the difference is small and could be chance; we need more evidence before we decide." 3. Open answer with reasons.

Accept: "more than a quarter" or "28%"; answers in the student's own words. **Support:** read the bullet-like list of groups in the text together. **Challenge:** the student presents the three most important findings in one minute, using comparison phrases.

5. Speaking practice and discussion

18 mins (cue cards 6 · questions 12).

The student chooses two cards and speaks for 1–2 minutes on each. Then ask the five questions one by one. Let the student finish, then ask follow-up questions: "Why?", "What's the evidence?", "Is that the same in your country?"

Model answer (Q4): "Managers should organise one office day a week for the whole team and short daily check-ins online. People are more likely to feel connected if they meet face to face sometimes."
Evaluate: comparison phrases; correct numbers; balanced opinions with reasons and examples; answers of 3–4 sentences.
Correction: note mistakes while the student speaks and correct 2–3 of them at the end, so you don't interrupt fluency.

6. Lesson takeaway and wrap-up

5 mins.

The student completes the sentences and says them aloud. Ask: "What data would you need to decide about hybrid work in your company?"

Possible answers: "more likely to, compared with, a quarter"; "People saved 56 minutes on average by not commuting."; "In my company, managers are more likely to work from home."

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+. Optional extension / homework

Check: 80–100 words; clear structure (introduction, data, conclusion); comparison phrases (*more likely to, compared with*); correct numbers and percentages without articles.

✓. Did the student reach the objectives?

- Can the student explain the main findings (28%, who hybrid works, 56 minutes)?
- Does the student use *more / less likely to* and *compared with* correctly?
- Can the student read and say percentages and fractions correctly?
- Can the student give a balanced opinion about hybrid work?

✔. Resource verification log

Resource	Institution / URL	Type · length	Checks (21 Oct 2026)	Result
Who are the hybrid workers?	Office for National Statistics (UK) https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/articles/whoarethehybridworkers/2024-11-11	Article · first two parts, about 400 words (3 min)	Page loads; content matches the exercises; free, no login; suitable for B1 with support; official statistics office, not a language school	**Approved**

Photos: credits listed in the references (Unsplash). No image links are included in the worksheet.

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

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