

You be the judge: should my partner use a co-working space so I can have our flat to myself?

Level 1: Elementary

Article summary: This article outlines the different opinions of two people, Claire and Xavier, who have asked readers of The Guardian for advice on working at home together.

Time: 60 minutes

Skills: Reading, Speaking, Writing

Language focus: Phrasal verbs

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student

1. Warmer

- a. This activity aims to get students thinking about the practicalities of working from home when you live with other people. If students don't know anyone who works from home, ask them to speculate about what they think the pros and cons might be.

2. Key words

- a. Ask students to work individually or in pairs to match the words in bold in the article to the correct definitions. Remind students to look for clues in the definitions to help them identify the correct key word. Allow a few minutes for students to check answers in pairs or groups before checking answers with the whole class.

Key:

1. *routine*
2. *annoying*
3. *co-working space*
4. *socialising*
5. *freedom*
6. *avoids*
7. *separation*
8. *flatmates*

- b. Ask students to work individually or in pairs to complete the sentences using words from task a.

Key:

1. *socialising*
2. *flatmates*
3. *freedom*
4. *co-working space*
5. *avoids*
6. *annoying*
7. *separation*
8. *routine*

3. Comprehension check

- a. Students can work individually or in pairs to do this activity. Encourage students to mark the section of the article where they found the answers to the questions.

Key:

1. *Xavier (paragraph 8: 'I work better that way.')*
2. *Claire (paragraph 4: 'I like to talk about things that come up ...')*
3. *Xavier (paragraph 5: 'I like starting early and finishing by 2 or 3pm ...')*
4. *Claire (paragraph 4: 'It's important to have separation as a couple.')*
5. *Xavier (paragraph 8: '... sometimes I wish I had a bit more freedom to be in the flat ...')*

4. Key language

- a. Students work individually to match the phrasal verbs to the correct definition.

Key:

1. *d*
2. *b*
3. *a*
4. *e*
5. *c*

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- b. Ask students to work individually or in pairs to complete the sentences with the words from the previous activity. To extend the activity, ask students to work in pairs to write example sentences of their own using the phrasal verbs.

Key:

1. *pop into*
2. *moved into*
3. *work out*
4. *stick to*
5. *hanging around*

5. Discussion

- a. Students discuss the questions in pairs or groups. Ask them to justify their opinions, referring to their own experiences whenever possible.

6. In your own words

- a. The aim of this task is to get students to read further into the dilemma by reading the comments that Guardian readers have posted online. Remind students that they need to be polite and respectful when writing comments about other people's lives and experiences (even if this is only for this practice activity).
- b. Give students enough time to share their comments with their classmates. Students can then vote on the advice that they think is most useful.