

Remodelling approaches to work – Analysing and discussing current issues

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Wie hat sich die Arbeitswelt mit Corona verändert (Stichwort *home office*)? Wie beeinflussen neue Technologien die Arbeitswelt, insbesondere im Bereich Bewerbung und Lernen? Und was bedeutet eigentlich *quiet quitting*? Mit diesen und weiteren Fragen beschäftigen sich die Schülerinnen und Schüler in der vorliegenden Unterrichtsreihe. Sie setzen sich außerdem mit dem Thema „*work-life balance*“ auseinander und sprechen über *diversity and discrimination* am Arbeitsplatz.

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Competences and skills:

By engaging with several texts, students train their **reading, analysing and interpreting competences**. Furthermore, they enhance their **speaking skills** by expressing views orally and participating in discussions. Students also practise their **listening and viewing competences** by working with two videos and one audio. Finally, students train their **writing skills** by dealing with several composition tasks.

Overview:


List of abbreviations:

A Analysis**LC** Listening comprehension**M** Mediation**PR** Presentation**VI** Working with a video**D** Discussion**LVC** Listening/Viewing comprehension**P** Working with a picture/cartoon**T** Working with a text**W** Writing


Topic	Material	Methods/Skills
1: Re-thinking the workplace	M1–M3	A, D, LVC, T, VI, W
2: Employment suitability	M4–M6	D, LC, T, W
3: Reassessing talent young and old	M7–M9	A, D, LVC, T, VI, W
4: Work-life balance	M10–M12	A, M, P, PR, T, W
5: Business practices	M13–M14	A, D, P

M2 Worksheet – *How the pandemic can change workplace culture for the better*


Pre-reading activity

-  1. If you could do most of your work from home, would you choose this option or still prefer to have a separate workplace? Briefly express your views.

Working with the text

-  2. Interpret the information in the text to form an image of the pre-pandemic workplace.
3. Examine the managerial opportunities that are seen as arising from the pandemic.
4. Analyse the advantages and disadvantages of remote working and comment on them.

Discussion

-  5. Remote working involves hidden issues. Look at these issues and make notes about each. An example is provided. In each case, one working point is suggested in brackets. Using your notes and responding to comments made by your classmates, discuss each issue.
- Commuting (the environmental impact)
 - Family life (childcare)
 - Workspace (kitchen table)
 - Additional costs (electricity)
 - Flexibility (doctor's appointments)
 - Illness/injury (too ill for the office, not at home?)

Fitness and health

- Restricted movement: bed – desk – sofa
- Lack of passive activity: walking to work, using stairs etc.
- Bad habits: eating at the desk, snacking
- Sitting in correct chairs and home workstations → back problems
- Lack of fresh air
- Conscious effort needed to move regularly/less likely to take breaks
- Extra gym → time and costs
- Difficulty in arranging sporting activities with colleagues: no after work activities
- Requires more self-motivation

M6 Worksheet – Audio: Companies are spying on job candidates online



Audio: Companies are spying on job candidates online

<https://raabe.click/spying> [last access: 12/10/2023]



Pre-listening activity

- The recording may include some unknown vocabulary. Complete the vocabulary task before listening. Match each word in **bold** part to a suitable synonym or explanation in the table. An example is provided.
 - People wanting information often secretly **snoop** on others.
 - Some unkind managers call people below them their **underlings** or **flunkies**.
 - Digital technology allows easy assessing of job applicants by online **vetting**.
 - Tacit** approval was given, but a more direct approval would have been better.
 - Some very powerful people in business act like **deities**: untouchable and always right.
 - Ableist** language suggesting favouritism to people with disabilities is unacceptable.
 - People making inappropriate statements face being **castigated**.
 - If laws are ignored, there should be fines for **infractions**.

ableist	offensive and prejudiced (towards disabled colleagues)
	criticised
	screening
	gods
	non-compliances
	indirect
	people of minor importance in an organisation (derogatory)
	gods

Topic 5: Business practices

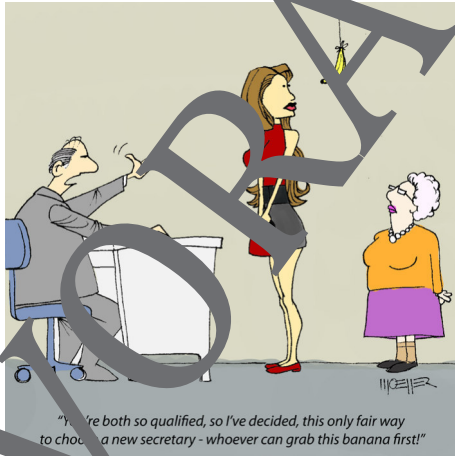
M13 Two cartoons

Cartoon A



“Of course we’re diverse! Shawn here is a vegetarian!”

Cartoon B



Both cartoons: © Cartoonstock

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