

词汇: work 工作

For many **white-collar workers** around the world, the recent pandemic has meant having to **work from home**. Their usual office location has been **out of bounds**. This means different **working practices**, which have advantages and disadvantages for **employees**. But the big question is, will they ever see their offices again?

Home working has made people realise what **tasks** they can perform at home, rather than enduring a **commute** to the office to do the same thing. It has given them more time with the family; they've been sleeping better and have saved money by not travelling or buying lunches on the go. And recent research suggests the majority of people working from home are just as **productive**.

For some people, this could be a **permanent arrangement**. In the UK, fifty of the biggest **employers** questioned by the BBC, have said they have no plans to return all **staff** to the office **full-time** in the near future. Of course, one main reason is that **firms** couldn't see a way of accommodating large numbers of staff while **social distancing** regulations were still in place. But the BBC also heard from some smaller **businesses** who are deciding to abandon their offices altogether.

Other bigger companies are also looking at shutting offices to save money as many jobs can be performed **remotely**. Peter Cheese, head of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, told the BBC: "We're at a moment of real change in the world of work, driven by big **existential** crises."

But this isn't great news for everyone. Some employees can feel isolated at home, and there's less opportunity to **network** or learn from other people, especially if they're a **new recruit**. Also, city centres may suffer most from a change in working habits. Shops and cafes rely on the footfall of office workers, and without them, they face closure. The future is still uncertain, which is why it may be too early to say where our desks will be permanently located. But the office of the future may be your home.

词汇表

white-collar worker	白领工人，从事脑力劳动的人
work from home	居家办公
out of bounds	禁止入内
working practice	工作惯例
employee	员工
home working	在家工作
task	工作，任务
commute	上下班往返，通勤
productive	有效率的
permanent arrangement	长久之计
employer	雇主
staff	全体员工
full-time	全日制的，全天的
firm	公司
social distancing	社交距离
business	商业机构
remotely	远程地
existential	生存的，存在的
network	建立人脉
new recruit	新员工

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What do some workers not have to 'endure' by working at home?
2. Why has it been difficult for some businesses to accommodate everyone in the office?
3. When will people working at home be returning to the office?
4. True or false? *Without office workers, cafes and shops in city centres may have to close.*
5. What might you miss out on by permanently working from home?

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. I always find I am most _____ in the mornings after drinking a strong cup of coffee.

productive	production	productives	producing
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2. The island is _____ located. It's off the west coast of Scotland.

remote	remoteness	remotely	remoted
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3. If you want to get on in your career, you need to _____.

commute	social distance	network	recruit
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4. It's good _____ to turn the power off on your TV before going to bed.

practices	practicing	practise	practice
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5. My new job is great; I get paid more and there's just a short _____ to the office.

footfall	commute	existential	tasks
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What do some workers not have to 'endure' by working at home?

Home workers do not have to endure commuting to work.

2. Why has it been difficult for some businesses to accommodate everyone in the office?

They are finding it hard accommodating large numbers of staff while social distancing regulations were still in place.

3. When will people working at home be returning to the office?

The future is still uncertain, which is why it may be too early to say where our desks will be permanently located.

4. True or false? *Without office workers, cafes and shops in city centres may have to close.*

True. Shops and cafes rely on the footfall of office workers, and without them, they face closure.

5. What might you miss out on by permanently working from home?

Some employees can feel isolated working at home and there's less opportunity to network or learn from other people, especially if they're a new recruit.

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. I always find I am most **productive** in the mornings after drinking a strong cup of coffee.

2. The island is **remotely** located. It's off the west coast of Scotland.

3. If you want to get on in your career, you need to **network**.

4. It's good **practice** to turn the power off on your TV before going to bed.

5. My new job is great; I get paid more and there's just a short **commute** to the office.