"They told me to grow roots. Instead I grew wings."

Louis de Bernières, British Author

1. Digital Nomads Discussion

1. What is a digital nomad? Would you like the opportunity to work in many different locations, or would you prefer to work in just one place? Why?
2. What are some of the best jobs to become a digital nomad? Could a digital nomad do any job, or are they restricted to tech jobs?
3. If you were a digital nomad, which countries would you like to work in? What facilities would you need to have in these places?
4. What kind of people become digital nomads? Is it just for young people? Would it be possible for people with families? How could digital nomads ensure their kids have what they need?
5. What kind of personal qualities or character would you need to be a digital nomad?
6. Do you think the digital nomad lifestyle is more exciting than those who work in just one place?
7. In what ways would working in an office be better than being a digital nomad?
8. If you were a digital nomad, what would you do for holidays/vacations? Is being a digital nomad just one long holiday/vacation?

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2. Digital Nomads Vocabulary

- **remote working, remote worker** (noun) – *work that can be completed without the need of a physical workplace or away from the office; a person who works remotely.*
- **digital nomad** (noun) – *a remote worker who travels from place to place while working.*
- **digital / virtual workplace** (noun) – *the digital equivalent of an office workplace.*
- **steady paycheck** (noun) – *consistent income that is paid regularly.*
- **freelancer** (noun), **freelance** (adjective) – *an independent worker who does work for multiple companies rather than be employed by a single company; describes this kind of work.*
- **gig economy** (noun) – *a job market characterised by short-term, temporary or freelance work instead of permanent contracts, often without benefits like health insurance, holidays, or sick pay.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun)

1. Communication technology is the most important thing to take into consideration when creating your **digital workplace**.
2. **Digital nomads** are able to combine their love of travel with earning an income.
3. Labour activists demanded that Uber stop hiring drivers through the **gig economy** and give them permanent contracts and full employment rights.
4. It was difficult to give up the **steady paycheck** from my old office job, but the freedom of becoming a digital nomad definitely makes up for it.
5. **Remote working** is becoming increasingly popular as companies realise work can be done from any location thereby saving money on the cost of offices.
6. There are now many websites offering **freelance** work where clients post various on-demand jobs.

Digital Nomads vocabulary comprehension questions

1. Will everyone be a remote worker in the future? Why or why not?
2. What are the main benefits of being a digital nomad? What are the main disadvantages?
3. What equipment or software would you need in your digital workplace?
4. Would you give up a steady paycheck for a nomadic lifestyle?
5. What freelance jobs could you do? Which freelance jobs could you do as a digital nomad?
6. Do you think companies' hiring people through the gig economy amounts to labour exploitation?

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3. Video: Digital Nomad Pros and Cons

You are going to watch a video by PBS called "Future of Work | Digital Nomads: The Changing World of Work."

Watch the video here: https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-digital-nomads/

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. How many Americans were digital nomads before the pandemic?
   a) 8 hundred *b) 8 thousand* ***c) 8 million***
2. What generation are many digital nomads?
   a) boomers ***b) millennials*** *c) gen Z*
3. Where did Erick Prince work before he became a digital nomad?
   a) the military *b) the government* *c) in the tech industry*
4. What job role is similar to a digital nomad?
   a) an officer worker ***b) a remote worker*** *c) a homeworker*

Sentence completion

5. Chiang Mai is an attractive destination for digital nomads thanks to its low **cost of living**.
6. Mike Holp has been working for Airbnb for two years as an **independent contractor**.
7. Mike gets paid a **commission** for every new host he signs up.
8. One of the best things about being a digital nomad is not having a **boss** and being able to set your own hours.

Short answer

9. Digital nomads used the opportunities of what to create a flexible workplace? **A digital world**
10. An advantage of being a digital nomad is the opportunity to see what? **New places**
11. Where could Erick Prince sit for the rest of his life working on his laptop? **A beach**
12. What don't you have in the US system of work? **True freedom**

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4. Digital Nomads Conversation Questions

1. Why do you think interest in the digital nomad lifestyle has increased recently?
2. Do you think digital nomads feel lonely? How would you avoid feeling lonely if you were a digital nomad?
3. Do you think being a digital nomad would be more or less stressful than having an office job? Why?
4. How can digital nomads keep themselves motivated and focused on their work? How can companies ensure their remote staff remain productive when they are working in foreign countries?
5. How can digital nomads develop professionally? Could being a digital nomad be damaging to a career in any way?
6. If you were going to start writing a blog, what topic would you write about? How would you make money from your blog? What other online business could you start as a digital nomad?
7. Why might digital nomads have a more luxurious lifestyle than if they stayed in their home countries?
8. Do you expect to see more digital nomads in the future? Why or why not?

5. Digital Nomads Writing Task

Write about your opinion of digital nomads. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- The main benefits of being a digital nomad.
- The main disadvantages of being a digital nomad.
- Whether you expect there to be more digital nomads in the future or not.

Alternative exam essay question

As more an more people become used to the idea of working remotely, many of them are considering the digital nomad lifestyle. What are the advantages and disadvantages of being a digital nomad?

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