



## ENGLISH SPEAKING CORNER 1 - Smart Working

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### Smart Working-Gap filling activity

Hi everyone and welcome to our English corner where to \_\_\_\_\_ our language knowledge and challenge our \_\_\_\_\_.

As we know, the world is currently facing a collective and global \_\_\_\_\_ which is forcing our families, businesses and countries to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
Coronavirus, namely Covid-19 is, challenging our times, limiting our freedoms, forcing us to rethink our social lives, reorganise work activities and temporarily change our daily \_\_\_\_\_. As the virus keeps spreading, people all over the world are trying to cope by developing new \_\_\_\_\_.

Among these, Smart Working is playing a key role.

In fact, we would never have imaged that the spread of a virus would have given such a strong \_\_\_\_\_ towards the adoption of Smart Working.

And this is going to be today's topic for us.

First of all, we should ask ourselves whether Smart working is a need or a solution during the spread of Covid-19.

Certainly we are seeing a sudden \_\_\_\_\_ and a forced transition to this model, or rather 'remote work' (especially from home) without any prior preparation, without a preliminary test or adaption phase.

Companies and organisations have been compelled to impose \_\_\_\_\_ work-from-home policies in an increasingly 'no-touch' world. Especially small-size enterprises have been experiencing the greatest test. Nevertheless, companies have realised the \_\_\_\_\_ of being excluded from the world market and therefore they are calling for the urgent need to continue to be part of the \_\_\_\_\_ community. Thus, Smart Working may serve such a purpose.

However, the current crisis seems to mark a \_\_\_\_\_ in how work is performed and the way we think about working arrangements. Indeed, looking at the broader picture, Covid-19 may prove to be a major tipping point for the digital transformation of the

\_\_\_\_\_. Yet, it looks near impossible to put that digital genie back in the bottle, once the health emergency is over.

As Twitter's Head of Human Resources, Jennifer Christie, said in a message to staff, "working from home doesn't change your day-to-day work, it just means you'll be doing it from a different environment".

But questions may arise: how are these activities planned? What do workers have access to? Do they have home-stations, desks, IT equipment and digital \_\_\_\_\_ at their disposal? We do not currently have the answer to these questions, but we know that during these days we will be the ones writing the guidelines on how best to implement this method of working in the coming years, after we have taken a look at what worked and what didn't, analysing how to \_\_\_\_\_.

Said that, we should all bear in mind that talking about remote work, its usefulness and boundless possibilities means talking about \_\_\_\_\_. Let's face it, the issue is centered around technology. Technology is the key that allows employees to work remotely and supplies us the largest collection of information at our fingertips. 'Work' is no longer a place: it is an activity which can be done from any \_\_\_\_\_ that allows for internet connectivity.

Technology has brought us a long way in the current millenium, but we have still to progress to achieve self-autonomy. The \_\_\_\_\_ between those having access to the internet and those who don't, shows just how crucial an advantage it is to have access to such a development tool in our digital society, with socio-economic and cultural damages affecting those who lack such amenities during this \_\_\_\_\_ time.

To conclude, what lesson is to be learned? This sudden and unexpected setback caused by the virus has allowed us a moment to stop and reflect, establishing what the real \_\_\_\_\_ in life are as well as in our workplace. Flexibility and freedom seem to come first on the list and can be certainly offered by a remote digital work model, which, on the other hand, can considerably improve opportunities to collaborate, think, create and connect productively, nationally and internationally.

So, are you ready for the evolution of 'working \_\_\_\_\_'?

## VIDEO LESSON COMPLETE TEXT – Smart Working

Hi everyone and welcome to our English corner where to **boost** our language knowledge and **challenge** our skills.

As we know, the world is currently facing a **collective** and **global pandemic** which is forcing our families, businesses and countries to **shutdown** and **lockdown**. Coronavirus, namely Covid-19, is challenging our times, limiting our freedoms, forcing us to **rethink** our social lives, reorganise work activities and temporarily change our daily habits.

As the virus keeps spreading, people all over the world are trying to cope by developing new strategies.

Among these, **Smart Working** is playing a key role.

In fact, we would never have imaged that the spread of a virus would have given such a strong acceleration **towards the adoption of Smart Working**.

And this is going to be today's topic for us.

First of all, we should ask ourselves whether Smart working is **a need or a solution** during the spread of Covid-19.

Certainly we are seeing a sudden switch and a **forced transition** to this model, or rather 'remote work' (especially from home) without any prior preparation, without a preliminary test or adaption phase.

Companies and organisations have been compelled to impose mandatory work-from-home policies in an increasingly 'no-touch' world. Especially small-size enterprises have been experiencing the greatest test. Nevertheless, companies have realised the risk of being excluded from the world market and therefore they are calling for the urgent need to continue to be part of the business community. Thus, Smart Working may serve such a purpose.

However, the current crisis seems to mark a turning point in how work is performed and the way we think about working arrangements. Indeed, looking at the broader picture, Covid-19 may prove to be **a major tipping point for the digital transformation of the workplace**. Yet, it looks near impossible to put that digital genie back in the bottle, once the health emergency is over.

As Twitter's Head of Human Resources, Jennifer Christie, said in a message to staff, "working from home doesn't change your day-to-day work, it just means you'll be doing it from a different environment".

But questions may arise: **how are these activities planned? What equipment do workers have access to? Do they have home-stations, desks, IT equipment and digital devices at their disposal?**

We do not currently have the answer to these questions, but we know that during these days we will be the ones writing the **guidelines** on how best to implement this method of working in the coming years, after we have taken a look at what worked and what didn't, analysing how to improve.

Said that, we should all bear in mind that talking about remote work, its usefulness and boundless possibilities means talking about technology. Let's face it, the issue is centered around technology. **Technology is the key** that allows employees to work remotely and supplies us the largest

collection of information at our fingertips. **‘Work’ is no longer a place:** it is an activity which can be done from any location that allows for internet connectivity.

Technology has brought us a long way in the current millenium, but we have still to progress to achieve self-autonomy. The gap between those having access to the internet and those who don’t, shows just how crucial an advantage it is to have access to such a development tool in our digital society, with socio-economic and cultural damages affecting those who lack such amenities during this unique time.

To conclude, **what lesson is to be learned?** This sudden and unexpected setback caused by the virus has allowed us a moment to stop and reflect, establishing what the real priorities in life are as well as in our workplace. Flexibility and freedom seem to come first on the list and can be certainly offered by a remote digital work model, which, on the other hand, can considerably **improve opportunities to collaborate, think, create and connect productively**, nationally and internationally.

So, are you ready for the evolution of ‘working anywhere’?

**Online sources:**

[www.socialeurope.eu/the-future-of-work-in-the-post-covid-19-digital-era](http://www.socialeurope.eu/the-future-of-work-in-the-post-covid-19-digital-era)

[www.levelofficelandscape.com/en/smart-working-during-covid-19-need-or-solution/](http://www.levelofficelandscape.com/en/smart-working-during-covid-19-need-or-solution/)

[www.theguardian.com/technology/2020/mar/13/covid-19-could-cause-permanent-shift-towards-home-working](http://www.theguardian.com/technology/2020/mar/13/covid-19-could-cause-permanent-shift-towards-home-working)