

Select Readings, Second Edition
Upper-Intermediate, Chapter 8 Test

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Freelancing: The Pros and Cons

By C. M. Hathaway

At the age of 40, I had been working for the same company for over 15 years. I was earning a good salary, was receiving a fair amount of annual leave, and liked the people I worked with.

However, I was already at a fairly senior level within the company, and my prospects for further advancement were slim. I started to feel like the most I could anticipate would be another 15 years of doing exactly the same thing. So I decided to make a change.

I left the security of my corporate position to become a *freelancer*. With the Internet making remote work easier than ever, freelance opportunities have rocketed¹ in the past decade. After five years now, I am still happy with the decision I made. However, if you are thinking about going freelance, it's always a good idea to weigh the pros and cons of freelancing to see whether it's really right for you.

PRO: Flexible Working Hours

One advantage of working freelance is that you will often be able to choose your own hours. Often if you are working on a project, you will be given a deadline. How and when you work to meet that deadline is up to you.

You may wish to work at night, or to cram² lots of work into a three-day week; it's your choice, as long as you meet your deadline and deliver quality work.

However, it is important that you are disciplined and motivated enough to work on your own. Procrastination can cause all sorts of problems, reduce the quality of the finished product, and leave you feeling stressed and tired.

CON: Work is Not Always Guaranteed

One consideration for freelancers is making sure to secure enough work to meet their financial needs. It may be a good idea to either take on some part-time work until you build your client base, or have some savings in place in case there are any quiet periods.

PRO: Choosing Projects

As a freelancer, it is up to you what kind of work you choose to do. If you find that you particularly enjoy one type of work, you may be lucky enough to earn enough money from accepting only those projects. Likewise, if you enjoy working on a variety of projects, freelancing may be your chance to try new things.

CON: Taking Care of Your Own Accounts

¹ **rocketed** increased quickly

² **cram** put a lot of things into a small space

As a freelancer, unless you have your own accountant, you'll have to take care of your own bookkeeping³ duties and tax returns. This can be a confusing and time-consuming process. Be prepared.

PRO/CON: Being Your Own Boss

Among the many other benefits of being your own boss, you alone get all the rewards and praise for your work, and don't have to share your profits with anyone else.

However, having no boss to report to or to consult can also have its disadvantages. You and you alone will be responsible for your reputation and for any problems that arise. There is no one to share the load, and you may have to deal with things on your own.

However, chances are that if you are dedicated, passionate, motivated, and well organized, you will be able to make a success out of a career in freelancing.

1. Which is the best paraphrase for the first sentence of paragraph 2?
 - A. I was in a mid-level position and they weren't hiring any more people.
 - B. I was the director of my company and so I couldn't advance any higher.
 - C. I was in a high-level position and there was little chance I could move higher.
 - D. My company didn't want to move me higher.
2. True or false? The author thinks that being a freelancer is better for everyone than working for someone else.
 - A. True
 - B. False
3. Which of the following is not important for a freelancer?
 - A. To do one type of work
 - B. Good time-management skills
 - C. To be self-disciplined
 - D. To be motivated
4. Which of the following is not true? If you work on your own, _____.
 - A. you get all the compliments if you do a good job
 - B. you don't have to share your pay with anyone else
 - C. if there's a problem you have to deal with it by yourself
 - D. you don't have to worry about a reputation
5. We can infer that the author _____.
 - A. regrets his decision to become a freelancer
 - B. is happy, but someday wants to return to work in a company
 - C. hasn't decided yet if he made the right decision to become a freelancer
 - D. is happy with his decision to become a freelancer
6. True or false? Freelancers must communicate how many hours a day they will work on a project.
 - A. True
 - B. False
7. Freelance work is _____ a corporate position.
 - A. less secure than
 - B. more secure than
 - C. less flexible than
 - D. just as secure as

³ **bookkeeping** recording how much money goes in and out

8. The term “build your client base” means _____.
A. help other freelancers find clients
B. maintain the number of clients you have
C. hire other freelancers to help you
D. increase the number of clients you have
9. “Likewise” in the paragraph on **Choosing Projects** is closest in meaning to _____.
A. even though
B. on the other hand
C. similarly
D. however
10. True or false? The author suggests that bookkeeping is an enjoyable part of freelancing.
A. True
B. False