
Why work doesn't happen at work

[listening test questions]

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Time: (15:21)

Location: TED TALKS

Level: **** [B1/B2]

Link: https://www.ted.com/talks/jason_fried_why_work_doesn_t_happen_at_work

Check these words before listening:

Key vocabulary

1. Non-profit companies / charities
2. Perfectly reasonable
3. Location – porches / deck / basement
4. Cuisinart (google this)
5. A conference call
6. uninterrupted time
7. long stretches
8. To stick around
9. Phenomenon
10. Phase-based, or stage-based
11. To cite
12. Ridiculous
13. Involuntary
14. Poisonous / toxic
15. Spontaneous
16. Productivity
17. To remedy
18. Well-equipped
19. Casual Friday
20. To bother someone
21. Incredibly valuable
22. Erase it
23. To think about laying off a little bit,
24. It'll all pay off in the end

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Student

TED Talks Test Questions

Time: *Approximately 1- 1:30 hours*

1. Read the title

- Try to predict the content of lecture
- Write down key terms / ideas
- Check key vocabulary using a dictionary

Try to listen ONLY two times

Three types of lesson

Lesson#1: [hard]

1. Listen once – take notes
2. Give 5 minutes to tidy notes
3. Listen again and add to notes (use a different colour pen).
4. Answer questions – set 20-25 minutes to answer.
5. Check answers
6. Listen again to check answers

Lesson #2: [medium]

1. Listen once – take notes.
2. Answer questions: 10-15 minutes
3. Listen again – answer the questions as they listen
4. Give yourself 10 minutes to tidy answers. Then check answers
5. Listen again to check answers

Lesson #3: [easier]

1. Read questions – highlight key terms
2. listen once and answer questions
3. 5 minutes to tidy notes
4. Listen again answer missed question
5. 5-10 minutes to tidy answers. Then check answers
6. Listen again to check answers

Teacher

TED Talks comprehension questions

Lesson Plan

Aim: to develop the students' ability to listen to a 10 min+ lecture, to take notes and then use those notes to answer a range of test type questions.

Lesson Time: Approximately 1:30-2:00 hours

Lesson Plan

1. Lead in

- Ask Students to discuss the 'title' and predict the content of lecture
- Ask students to write down key terms / language from discussion
- Feed in / check key vocabulary

Three types of lesson

Lesson#1: [hard]

1. Students listen once – take notes
2. Give 5 minutes to tidy notes
3. Listen again and add to notes (use a different colour pen).
4. Give out questions – set 20-25 minutes to answer.
5. Feedback answers (give out answers or go through on board)

Lesson #2: [medium]

1. Students listen once – take notes.
2. Give out questions: Set 15 minutes for students to answer questions from notes
3. Listen again – students answer the questions as they listen
4. Give extra 10 minutes to consolidate answers
5. Feedback answers (give out answers or go through on board)

Lesson #3: [easy]

1. Give out questions - students have 10 minutes to look at questions
2. Students listen and answer questions
3. Give 5 minutes to tidy notes
4. Students listen again – check answers and answer questions missed
5. 5-10 minutes to tidy answers
6. Feedback answers (give out answers or go through on board)

Why work doesn't happen at work

TED TALK: Jason Fried [Oct 2010. 15:21]

1. Gap fill - [Put a suitable word in the space]

What do companies do?

i. they buy or _____ a building
ii. they _____ this space with stuff, such as furniture, computers, software
iii. they expect employees to come to that _____ everyday

___ / 3

2. Terms

Where do people actually get work done?

Place	Examples
1. Place	i. <i>porch</i>
	ii.
	iii.
	iv.
	v.
2. _____	i. <i>train</i>
	ii.
	iii.
3. _____	i. <i>Early in the morning</i>
	ii.
	iii.

___ / 10

3. Short answer

What do people never say when asked where they get work done?

i.

___ / 1

4. Gap fill - [Put a suitable word in the space – first letter is provided]

What's really happening at work?

i. People go to work and they're basically trading in their work day for a series of 'w_____ m_____'.
_____ / 4

ii. You have 15 minutes here, 30 minutes there, then lunch, then a question, then you something else to do. You don't get m_____ work done, you just do t_____.

5. True / false / NG

What's really happening at work?

T/F/NG

a. Creative people need long stretches of uninterrupted time	
b. Some people can be creative in 15 minute slots	
c. A minority of people have long stretches of uninterrupted time	
d. People choose to work at home because of no distractions	
e. Most people don't like to work at weekends	

____ / 5

6. Short answer

How is sleep connected to work?

i.

____ / 1

7. Reasons

What do employers cite as distractions when working from home?

i.	TV
ii.	
iii.	
Managers say:	'If I can't see the person, how _____?'

____ / 3

8 Short Answers

What are the 3 social media sites that bosses / managers say are distracting?

i.	
ii.	
iii.	
Lecturer Says:	'These social media sites are modern day s _____ b _____', [2 points]

___ / 5

9. Short Answers

According to the speaker, the real problems in an office are:

i.	
ii.	

___ / 2

10. Gap Fill

In the opinion of the speaker. What is a manager's job?

i. Managers are basically people whose job is to i _____ people

___ / 1

11. Key terms

In the opinion of the speaker. What 3 negative adjectives does he use to describe meetings?

i.	<i>terrible</i>
ii.	
iii.	

___ / 2

12. Summary - [Put a suitable word in the space – first letter is provided]

So the problem with meetings is that when you call a meeting of 10 people, what are the

i. **c** _____ that those 10 people are ready to stop? Meetings are incredibly expensive to an organisation and generally, one meeting just ii. **l** _____ to another meeting. Companies think a one-hour meeting is one-hour but if there is ten people a one-hour meeting is actually iii. **t** _____ hours of iv. **p** _____ lost.

___ / 4

13. Open answers

What are the three key solutions? Add the examples or development of the idea

Solution	Development / examples
1. No Talk Thursday	i. _____ _____ _____
Quote: <i>Give someone ii. _____ hours of interrupted time, it's the best iii. _____ you can give</i>	
2. iv. _____	<i>Use email / instant messenger / they are distracting at a time of your choice</i>
Quote: <i>'You can quit the email app; you can't v. _____ your boss'</i>	
3. vi. _____	vii. _____ _____ _____
Quote: <i>'You'll find that everything will be just viii. _____'</i>	

___ / 8

14. Conclusion – [Put a suitable word in the space – first letter is provided]

I hope that some of these ideas were at least **p** _____ enough for managers and bosses who are in charge of other people, to think about **l** _____ off a little bit, and giving people more time to get work done. I think it'll all **p** _____ off in the end.

___ / 3

Overall score: ___ / 52

Why work doesn't happen at work **ANSWERS**

1. Gap fill

What do companies do?

i. they buy or rent a building
ii. they fill this space with stuff, such as furniture, computers, software
iii. they expect employees to come to that location everyday

___ / 3

2. Terms

Where do people actually get work done?

Place	Examples
<u>1. Place</u>	i. <i>porch</i>
	ii. <i>the deck</i>
	iii. <i>kitchen</i>
	iv. <i>extra room</i>
	v. <i>The basement / Coffee shop / the library</i>
<u>2. Moving object</u>	i. <i>train</i>
	ii. <i>plane</i>
	iii. <i>car</i>
<u>3. Time</u>	i. <i>Early in the morning</i>
	ii. <i>Late at night</i>
	iii. <i>On / at the weekends</i>

___ / 10

3. Short answer

What do people never say when asked where they get work done?

i. the office

___ / 1

4. Gap fill

What's really happening at work?

i. People go to work and they're basically trading in their work day for a series of '**work moments**'.

ii. You have 15 minutes here, 30 minutes there, then lunch, then a question, then you have something else to do. You don't get **meaningful** work done, you just do **tasks**.

___ / 4

5. True / false / NG

What's really happening at work?

T/F/NG

f. Creative people need long stretches of uninterrupted time	T
g. Some people can be creative in 15 minute slots	NG
h. A minority of people have long stretches of uninterrupted time [very few people actually get...]	T
i. People choose to work at home because of no distractions	T
j. Most people don't like to work at weekends	NG

___ / 5

6. Short answer

How is sleep connected to work?

i. Sleep and work are phase-based, or stage-based. If interrupted, you don't sleep well.

___ / 1

7. Reasons

What do employers cite as distractions when working from home?

i.	TV
ii.	Go for a walk
iii.	Couch / whatever you want to do
Managers say:	'If I can't see the person, how do I know they are working? '

___ / 3

8 Short Answers

What are the 3 social media sites that bosses / managers say are distracting?

i.	Facebook
ii.	Twitter
iii.	YouTube
Lecturer Says:	'These social media sites are modern day <u>smoke breaks</u> '

[2 points]

___ / 5

9. Short Answers

According to the speaker, the real problems in an office are:

i.	managers
ii.	meetings

___ / 2

10. Gap Fill

In the opinion of the speaker. What is a manager's job?

i.	Managers are basically people whose job is to <u>interrupt</u> people
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___ / 1

11. Key terms

In the opinion of the speaker. What 3 negative adjectives does he use to describe meetings?

i.	<i>terrible</i>
ii.	toxic
iii.	Poisonous

___ / 2

12. Summary

Fill in the gaps with a suitable word

So the problem with meetings is that when you call a meeting of 10 people, what are the

i. chances that those 10 people are ready to stop? Meetings are incredibly expensive to an organisation and generally, one meeting just ii. leads into another meeting. Companies think a one-hour meeting is one-hour but if there is ten people a one-hour meeting is actually iii.

10 / ten hours of iv. productivity taken.

___ / 4

13. Open answers

What are the three key solutions? Add the examples or development of the idea

Solution	Development / examples
1. No Talk Thursday	i. First Thursday of every month /just the afternoon / just silence
Quote: <i>Give someone ii. <u>4 / four</u> hours of interrupted time, it's is the best iii. <u>gift</u> you can give</i>	
2. iv. <u>Passive models of communication</u> [must be 'passive models' not email or I.M]	Use email / instant messenger / they are distracting at a time of your choice
Quote: <i>You can quit the email app; you can't v. <u>quit</u> your boss</i>	
3. vi. <u>Cancel the next meeting</u>	vii. Don't move it / erase it from your memory / it's gone
Quote: <i>You'll find that everything will be just viii. <u>fine</u></i>	

___ / 8

14. Conclusion – gap fill

I hope that some of these ideas were at least provocative enough for managers and bosses who are in charge of other people, to think about laying off a little bit, and giving people more time to get work done. I think it'll all pay off in the end.

___ / 3

Overall score: ___ / 52