

# When working from home goes wrong

✦ A2 Level

✦ Duration: 45 min

✦ Group lesson

✦ Age: adults

✦ Lesson goals

Students can differentiate between the use of Present Simple and Present Continuous.

Students can describe habits and routines.

## 1

### Warm-up

**Exercise 1: In teams of 3-4 people, sort the statements into two groups: advantages and disadvantages. Can you think of more? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of working from home with the class.**

1. Needs self-discipline and motivation
2. Gives more options in daily schedule
3. May not talk with coworkers or boss enough
4. Few chances for teamwork
5. Helps concentrate better
6. Allows working from a comfortable place

advantages

disadvantages

## 2

### Reading

**Exercise 2: Read the story about Jack. Highlight the verbs in Present Simple and Present Continuous. Do you sometimes have days like Jack's?**

Jack **works** from home. Usually, he wakes up at 7 o'clock and drinks a cup of coffee. He turns on his computer and starts working. Sometimes, he takes a break to stretch his legs or open the window near his desk. He likes to hear the cars outside.

But today, everything **is going** wrong. The internet isn't working! Jack is trying to fix it but nothing is helping. He decides to take a break and go for a walk. When he comes back, his neighbours are painting the walls and the smell is making him dizzy. He can't concentrate on his work anymore. He wants to call his boss to explain the situation, but his phone battery dies. What a day! He decides to make another coffee and try to relax. But when he is making it, he spills it all over his laptop! Now he can't work at all.

In the end, Jack just gives up and goes to bed early. What a disaster of a day!

## Grammar practice

### Exercise 3: Complete the dialogue using the following verbs:

turns / aren't painting / are beeping / drink / chat / isn't working  
is helping / are painting / work / isn't going

**Jack:** Hi, Dave. I'm upset.

**Dave:** What's up?

**Jack:** I wanted to work from my house today but it \_\_\_\_\_(1) well.

**Dave:** Why? What happened?

**Jack:** The internet \_\_\_\_\_(2). It \_\_\_\_\_(3) off and on all the time, which makes me crazy.

**Dave:** That's bad. Can you do anything about it?

**Jack:** I called tech support, but nothing \_\_\_\_\_(4). And also, my neighbours \_\_\_\_\_(5) their walls, so the smell is too strong.

**Dave:** Oh no.

**Jack:** And to make things worse, while taking sugar from the shelf, I spilled my coffee all over myself!

**Dave:** That's bad luck.

**Jack:** Yeah, and cars \_\_\_\_\_(6) outside because of a traffic jam. I opened the window near my desk because it is hot inside, but now the noise is very loud.

**Dave:** Wow, that sounds really hard. Usually, when you \_\_\_\_\_(7) from home it's great because you're comfortable.

**Jack:** Yes, usually! But sometimes unexpected things happen and ruin your plans. I wish I went to the office where I always \_\_\_\_\_(8) coffee and usually \_\_\_\_\_(9) before starting work.

**Dave:** Well, maybe there is something else you can do. You could go for a walk or get some fresh air, then come back after lunch when your neighbours \_\_\_\_\_(10).

**Jack:** Hmm...yes, that might work. Thanks for your help, Dave.

### Exercise 4: Open the brackets to complete the sentences. Use Present Simple or Present Continuous.

1. She always \_\_\_\_\_ (turn on) the light when she enters the room.
2. He never \_\_\_\_\_ (turn off) the internet when he leaves his house.
3. My boss \_\_\_\_\_ (work) from home today due to the bad weather.
4. I always \_\_\_\_\_ (wake up) early so I have more time in the morning.
5. Please be quiet, my little sister \_\_\_\_\_ (sleep) now.
6. John is a hard worker and \_\_\_\_\_ (not take) a break during the day.
7. I usually \_\_\_\_\_ (drink) coffee but today I'm having tea instead.
8. The IT specialist \_\_\_\_\_ (try) to fix the company's server problem at the moment.
9. Jane is very careful, she seldom \_\_\_\_\_ (spill) her coffee.
10. Many people \_\_\_\_\_ (work) from home these days.

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## 4

### Speaking

**Exercise 5: Describe the pictures. Use this structure:**

He	usually		but today	
She	always	...	but this week	...
They	never		but now	

**Example:** He usually drinks tea but today he is drinking coffee.



**Now make the same sentences about yourself. How is your day different?**





## Correct answers and teaching tips

**Exercise 1: In teams of 3–4 people, sort the statements into two groups: advantages and disadvantages. Can you think of more? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of working from home with the class.**

Created in the “Lead-in activities” tool

Correct answers:

Advantages:

1. Gives more options in daily schedule
2. Allows working from a comfortable place
3. Helps concentrate better

Disadvantages:

1. May not talk with coworkers or boss enough
2. Needs self-discipline and motivation
3. Few chances for teamwork

**Exercise 2: Read the story about Jack. Highlight the verbs in Present Simple and Present Continuous. Do you sometimes have days like Jack’s?**

Created in the “Create a text” tool, genre - “Fictional story”, level - Simple A1-A2

**Exercise 3: Complete the dialogue using the following verbs:**

Created in the “Create a dialogue” tool + “Fill in the gap” tool

Correct answers:

1. isn't going
2. isn't working
3. turns
4. is helping
5. are painting
6. are beeping
7. work
8. drink
9. chat
10. aren't painting

**Exercise 4: Open the brackets to complete the sentences. Use Present Simple or Present Continuous.**

Created in the “Open the brackets for verbs” tool

Correct answers:

1. turns on
2. turns off
3. is working
4. wake up
5. is sleeping
6. doesn't take
7. drink
8. is trying
9. spills
10. work