



THE DECLINE OF THE DIGITAL NOMAD



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:
1C5D-H1LC-1CL2



1

Warm up

In pairs, discuss the following questions.

1. Would you prefer to work 9-5 or does a flexi-schedule suit your lifestyle better?
2. Have you ever thought about remote working? Why/Why not?
3. What are some of the benefits of working remotely?
4. Can you think of any drawbacks in relation to freelance work?





2 Focus on keywords

Match the underlined words to the definitions below.

1. The mounting pressure on the government was likely to push them into calling a general election.
2. We wanted to go to one of the trendy hotspots in the town centre, but the queue was too long.
3. As I've grown older, I have become a bit of a lone wolf.
4. Due to the leaking roof, the overwhelming feeling was that they had to move house.
5. They have been in the village for 20 years, but they originally hail from London.
6. The hotel offered us a smorgasbord of entertainment options when we arrived, but I just wanted to chill out at the pool.
7. A substantial amount of money was stolen from the bank this morning.
 - a. (adj.) so powerful that it is impossible to resist
 - b. (phr. v) come from or be born in a certain place
 - c. (v) increasing, often in a way that causes some to worry
 - d. (n) a place where there is a lot of excitement or activity
 - e. (adj.) large in importance
 - f. (n) a person who prefers to live or work alone
 - g. (n) a wide range of something

3 Listen for predictions 1

Look at the expressions related to numbers and with your partner try to predict what each of them might refer to in relation to digital nomads, then listen to the podcast and see if your ideas are similar.



Number	Answers
1. 35 million	_____ 1
2. \$787 billion	_____ 2
3. 47%	_____ 3
4. 61%	_____ 4
5. \$10-\$30	_____ 5



4

Listen for predictions 2

Read the sentences from the script and think about which words from the vocabulary section could go in the gaps, only five are needed. Afterwards, listen to the audio and check your predictions.

1. ... The _____ influence that digital nomads have in today's business world...
2. ... 35 million digital nomads working in various _____ around the world...
3. ...61% of digital nomads are men and most are _____ ...
4. ...51% of digital nomads originally _____ from America.
5. ... a _____ need for people who find themselves on the more creative side of things...

5

Listen for details

Listen to the podcast one more time and try to answer the following questions.

1. Where are digital nomads often read about?

2. How big would Digital Nomad- "land" be?

3. How long do most digital nomads stay in the same place?

4. In which industry do most of the companies who employ digital nomads work in?

5. What creative jobs are mentioned in the report?

6

Discussion

Read through the questions then talk about them with your partner.

1. What do you think about the concept of a digital nomad?
2. Would you like to live a year as a digital nomad? Why/Why not?
3. Do you have any skills in relation to the tech or creative industries?
4. Can you think of any reasons why people might stop being digital nomads?



7

Focus on vocabulary

Part A: Match the following vocabulary to the definitions.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. ent <u>i</u> cing (adj.) | a. gradually becomes harder or weaker to accept |
| 2. wear thin (idiom) | b. so interesting or attractive that you want to know more about it |
| 3. clamped down on (phr. v) | c. want something very much even if it is impossible to reach |
| 4. super <u>f</u> icial (adj.) | d. suppress or prevent something, often in an aggressive way |
| 5. yearn (v) | e. state of being physically or mentally exhausted due to work |
| 6. <u>b</u> urnout (n) | f. important or well-known |
| 7. com <u>m</u> issioned (v) | g. not serious or important |
| 8. <u>p</u> rominent (adj.) | h. asked someone to write, make or create something for you |

Part B: Put the vocabulary from Part A into the correct gaps in the following sentences. You may need to change the form of the word.

1. The local police started a campaign to _____ teenage drinking in the neighbourhood.
2. In my last job, I used to work 80 hours a week and by the end, I was heading towards _____.
3. After six months, my teacher's weird voice was beginning to _____.
4. The Eiffel Tower is such a _____ feature of the Paris skyline.
5. I was _____ to design the bathrooms for a new department store that was opening.
6. The thought of spending two weeks in Spain sounded very _____.
7. She used to sit and _____ for her mother to buy her a new mobile phone.
8. It seems really _____ but I used to spend all my money on designer baseball caps.

8

Skimming for general understanding

Read the following paragraph titles for the article on page six and match them to the correct paragraph.



1. **The right to work**
2. **Already qualified**
3. **A perfect world**
4. **Positives don't last forever**
5. **All roads lead to being lonely**
6. **Too much pressure**
7. **Complicated visa rules**





The decline of the digital nomad

There's no place like home

A. _____

When the world was first sold the idea of the digital nomad, the positives that came out seemed so obvious, we all wondered why we were not all jumping on the bandwagon. Freedom of movement was the primary selling point, the ability to move to any country, any city, any place was just too enticing for many. Put on top of that the opportunity to have a flexi-schedule and no real boss barking orders down your neck all day, it seemed too good to be true and as it turns out for many, it was.

B. _____

It has become clear over the last couple of years that living as a digital nomad has a limited shelf life and the attractiveness that was once there has started to wear thin for many. So, what are the reasons that people have stopped making themselves available as remote workers?

C. _____

One of the chief reasons for many is the complications surrounding the obtainment of visas in different countries. While the idea of being able to travel freely sounds amazing, the actual reality doesn't quite exist, as to work in almost any country you need to get yourself a work visa.

D. _____

For example, if you are an American wanting to work in Europe's Schengen Zone* you can only stay for 90 days as a freelance worker. You could be sneaky and stay as a tourist but legally you wouldn't be allowed to be making any money, and if you were discovered you would have to face the consequences. Some countries have policies where it can take months to receive a visa and in Southeast Asia, the previously popular visa runs are being clamped down on by authorities.

E. _____

One of the positives of working as a digital nomad is the freedom it rewards you, but unfortunately, that independence can also lead to feelings of loneliness and isolation. Some have discovered the constant thrill of travelling is actually a superficial one and after a period they yearn to have somewhere to put some roots down. The actual process of constantly travelling can also lead some towards burnout and feelings of anxiety are also believed to be high amongst people who travel and work at the same time.

F. _____

The concept of work/life balance is also one that seems to lean positively towards life as a digital nomad; unfortunately, the reality of life on the road isn't always like that. Many of the freelance gigs that are available involve meeting tight deadlines and when those deadlines start piling up, the pressure can really start having an effect on both your physical and mental wellbeing.

G. _____

The final factor which seems to be related to the falling numbers of digital nomads is in regard to people going freelance when they just aren't ready for it. A huge study commissioned by a prominent lecturer at Harvard University found that the people most suited to the nomadic lifestyle are the ones who already have well-developed, well-needed skills and/or a stable income already coming in. Those hoping to pick up bits and pieces as they go, often find that after a while it all gets a bit too much for them and they catch the first plane back home.

Sources: 2foodtrippers.com, ozchen.com, nomadtalk.net, citizenremote.com, forbes.com

Glossary

Schengen Zone (n) - an area in Europe that covers 27 countries and has abolished all passport and border control for mutually shared borders



9 Reading comprehension

Answer the questions below. Choose no more than three words from the passage for the answer.

1. What was the main selling point for life as a digital nomad?

2. One of the main reasons putting people off is complications related to what?

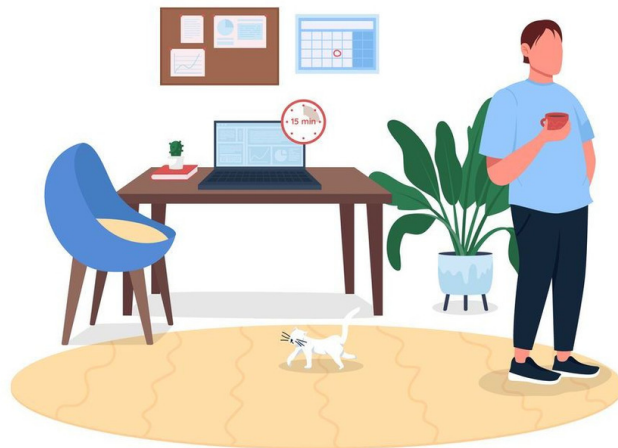
3. How long can an American freelance worker stay in the Schengen zone?

4. Being a digital nomad can lead to what kind of feelings?

5. Find a phrase that is similar in meaning to "always moving".

6. When you are working freelance, what kind of things do you have to meet?

7. Find a phrase that is similar in meaning to "steady salary"





10 Discussion

Look at the questions and discuss them with your partner.

1. What did you think of the article? What was the most interesting thing?
2. Do you there are more pros or cons when working as a digital nomad?
3. Do you think life as a digital nomad is more suited to a younger or older person? Why do you think that?
4. Can you think of any other careers in which people might suffer from feelings of loneliness or isolation?

11 Vocabulary for conversation

Look at the examples of natural language from the audio report and the article with your partner and from the context, try to guess the meaning of each one. To help you remember the expressions, have a discussion with your partner and use them to talk about your life.

- ...tends to be a figure that is hard to put a finger on...
- ... we all wondered why we were not all jumping on the bandwagon...
- ... flexi-schedule and no real boss barking orders down your neck...
- ... to have somewhere to put some roots down...

Let's chat.

1. Do you think it is hard to put your finger on why some people find it hard to learn languages?
2. Can you remember the last time you jumped on the bandwagon?
3. Have you ever worked with someone who barked orders down your neck?
4. At what age do people in your country usually start putting some roots down?