

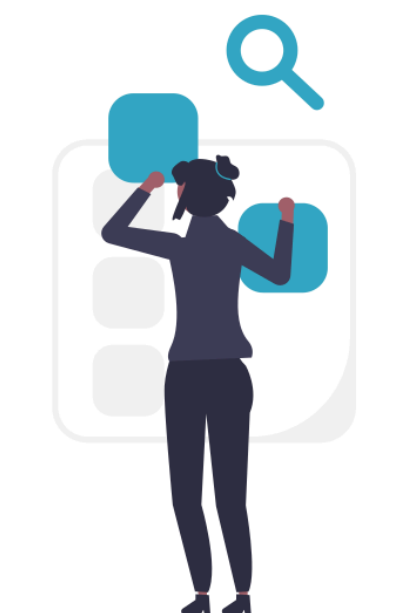
# SELF-EMPLOYMENT

Watch the [video](#) "The Highs and Lows of Self-Employment" by Bloomberg Quicktake.

## 1 WARM UP

**Task 1:** What do you think of when you hear the word "self-employment". Make a list.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_



**Task 2:** What is the 'gig economy'? Choose one of the following definitions.

1. A system where the government decides what to produce, how to produce it, and where to distribute goods and services within the economy.
2. A free market system in which temporary positions are common and organisations hire independent workers for short-term commitments.
3. An economical system that doesn't operate under a profit motive. Instead, it emphasises customs, history and time-honoured beliefs.

**Task 3:** Discuss the following questions as a class.

- a. Is there a gig economy in your country? Give examples.
- b. Do you know anyone who works in the gig economy?
- c. Describe the relationship between technology and the gig economy?



## 2 TYPES OF EMPLOYMENT

**Task 1: Match the words from the box to the correct definitions.**

|                             |                         |                      |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Zero Hour Contract <b>5</b> | Apprenticeship <b>1</b> | Side Hustle <b>2</b> |
| Freelancer <b>3</b>         | Contractor <b>6</b>     | Internship <b>4</b>  |

1. a system for training new practitioners of a profession with on-the-job training.
2. an additional job that a person takes in addition to their primary job
3. a person who is self-employed, so is not committed to one particular employer.
4. a period of work experience, lasting for a fixed period of time
5. the employer is not obliged to provide any working hours to the employee.
6. professionals who provide skills or services to one company for a set period.

**Task 2: Can you think of common jobs in your country related to each type?**

- a. Zero Hour Contract. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Apprenticeship. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Side Hustle. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Freelancer. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Contractor. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Internship. \_\_\_\_\_

**Task 3: Discuss the following questions as a class.**

1. For workers, what are the problems & benefits of **zero hour contracts**?
2. If your employee had a **side hustle**, would you be concerned? Explain.
3. Are **internships** commonplace in your country? Explain.
4. What are the advantages of an **apprenticeship** over a university degree?
5. Discuss the difference between a **freelancer** and **contractor** as a class. **No big difference. However, contractors work a little differently to freelancers: usually a contractor will work for one client full-time for a set period, often in the client's office.**

### 3 COULD YOU START A SIDE HUSTLE?

**Task 1: Read the tips for finding a side hustle below.**

**Evaluate your skill sets.** If you want to earn some extra cash but aren't sure what to do, think about your skill sets. Is there anything that you are particularly skilled at, but perhaps you aren't able to use that skill at work? Maybe you are a very strong writer or editor. You could look for freelance writing or editing jobs. Perhaps you have always been good with animals. You might consider dog walking or taking care of neighbourhood pets. Think about what skills you have, and put them to use.

**Consider your passions.** Along with considering your skill sets, think about what you are passionate about. Do you care a lot about fitness and wellness? Consider becoming certified in teaching yoga, then you could teach classes at your local gym. Are you passionate about education? Become a tutor on a topic you are knowledgeable about. Make sure your side hustle is something you care deeply about so that you can enjoy the extra work.

**Manage your time.** Before taking up a side hustle, make sure you can balance your time. You need to make sure you can still do well at your first job. Think about how much time your side hustle will take, and when you can get it done. Is it something you can do in the evenings? On weekends? Create a schedule that will allow you to balance your two jobs, while still leaving some time for yourself.

Article adapted from [thebalancecareers.com](https://thebalancecareers.com) - [link](#)

**Task 2: Discuss the following questions as a class.**

1. Why is it suggested to evaluate your skill sets before deciding on a side hustle?
2. Give an example of something you are skilled at but can't use at your current job.
3. How can someone who is skilled in writing or editing potentially earn extra income?
4. How might someone passionate about fitness and wellness consider a side hustle?
5. Why is it important for your side hustle to be something you are passionate about?
6. What should you consider in terms of time management before starting?
7. How can creating a schedule help you balance your main job and your side hustle?

**Task 3: Study the different side hustles in the box below.**

- Use the information from exercise 3 to decide which side hustle might be suitable for you. Explain your reasoning.

|             |                |            |          |
|-------------|----------------|------------|----------|
| E-commerce  | Party-Planning | Tour Guide | Coaching |
| Photography | Real Estate    | Web Design | Writing  |

## 4 SIDE HUSTLES: VIDEO ANALYSIS

**Task 1: Complete the quotes from the video.**

company

synonymous

grind

discounted

expenses

1. Three in 10 Americans do gig work of some kind or another. And for many, freelancing is **synonymous** with freedom. But freedom isn't free.
2. There's a lot of instability that comes with the gig economy. It's a hustle, it's a **grind**. You don't have the safety net of a salary and jobs. Basically, working from paycheck to paycheck.
3. I'm a humble video producer, and I could use some extra scratch. But will I get in trouble with my **company** for doing that?
4. Well, under the new Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, we've got what's called a 20 percent pass through. We've got cell phones, home office computers, electronics, travel, auto all these things that you are paying for anyway. I call it a personal conversion **expense**.
5. You know what, I quit! Wait a second. Was that a good idea? What about my vacation time, my 401K, my health insurance, and that **discounted** gym membership. Freelancing seems like a lot more work than a real job- mostly because you have to do everything yourself.

**Task 2: Discuss the following questions as class.**

1. How does freelancing provide a sense of freedom? Describe some of the potential downsides associated with this freedom?
2. In your country, is it common to live paycheck to paycheck?
3. Discuss the word "grind" as a class. Can you think of any jobs where one has to grind to make a good living?
4. Would you get into trouble with your company if you started a side hustle?
5. Discuss the meaning of "I could use some extra scratch". Can you create your own sentence using this phrase?
6. Are there similar tax laws in your country for self-employed workers? What personal expenses could you claim?
7. Discuss the common benefits workers get in your country from their employees.
8. Are there any realistic benefits that you would love to be given? A company car, a discounted gym membership etc?

## 5 TIPS FOR FREELANCERS: VIDEO ANALYSIS

**Task 1:** Read and complete the quote from the [video](#), using the words from the box.

|       |         |          |          |        |       |
|-------|---------|----------|----------|--------|-------|
| taxes | savings | contract | planning | vision | goals |
|-------|---------|----------|----------|--------|-------|

1. First of all, every freelancer needs to have a good **contract** from a lawyer that's going to protect their work and make sure they get paid on time. Secondly, you should have a system by which you are automatically setting aside 30 percent of your income into **taxes** as soon as it comes in before you can touch it. And, set aside income in the short term and long-term **savings**.
2. The third thing is that you should really set aside 10 percent of your time for long term **planning** and that should include business-building activities like client prospecting, networking, investing in training or up-skilling. And it's really important for you to have a **vision** for where you're going. Think about where you want to be in five years financially and professionally and make steps towards reaching those **goals**.

**Task 2:** Discuss the following questions as a class.

1. In your own words, describe the financial tips a freelancer needs to follow.
2. What problems can arise if you don't have a proper contract?
3. Are tax laws strict in your country? What are the consequences of nonpayment?
4. Why is it especially important for a freelancer to have a career vision?
5. What is your five year financial and professional plan?
6. Read the words from the quote in the box below. Describe their meanings, and explain why they are especially important to focus on for freelancers.

|             |            |                       |             |
|-------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| prospecting | networking | investing in training | up-skilling |
|-------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|



## 6 THE DISADVANTAGES OF SELF-EMPLOYMENT

**Task 1: Study the 3 disadvantages of self-employment. Can you think of 3 more?**

1. Irregular Income.

2. No Employee Benefits.

3. Inconsistent Workload.

4. \_\_\_\_\_.

5. \_\_\_\_\_.

6. \_\_\_\_\_.

**Task 2: Discuss each one as a class. Use the prompts to guide your discussion.**

- a. Discuss how one could minimise each disadvantage?
- b. How important is self-marketing to becoming a successful freelancer?
- c. How does the lack of employee benefits impact self-employed people?
- d. What difficulties arise from managing taxes and accounting?
- e. How would you manage your work-life balance as a freelancer?
- f. Should the government give extra help to the self-employed? Explain.
- g. How will AI affect job opportunities in the gig economy?



## 7 EMPLOYMENT: DEBATE

Study the arguments then choose which side you agree with, explaining why. Use the language from the table below to help structure your arguments.

Freelancing means freedom because you don't have a boss, so you can work whenever, and however you want.

or Freedom isn't free because there is a lot of insecurity. Also, you have to work hard to find your own customers.

Everybody should have their own side hustle, as it's a good use of free time because you can make extra money.

or Side hustles should be restricted by employers because they have a negative impact on an employee's focus at work.

Zero hour contracts should be banned by the government because they are unfair on workers, as they offer no stability.

or Zero hour contracts are great because they allow businesses to be flexible and cut costs, which is good for the economy.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Express an opinion</b></p> <p>It seems to me that...</p> <p>I feel that...</p> <p>I'm absolutely convinced that...</p> <p>In my opinion,...</p> <p>I believe / suppose / feel (that)...</p>                                                                        | <p><b>Express disagreement</b></p> <p>I don't agree with you about...</p> <p>I can't accept your view that...</p> <p>I have a different opinion...</p> <p>I'm not sure if...</p> <p>I'm not convinced that...</p> |
| <p><b>Express pro's and con's</b></p> <p>There are two sides to this point...</p> <p>On the one hand...,on the other hand...</p> <p>An argument for / against is...</p> <p>Some people think that...,others say that...</p> <p>The advantages / disadvantages are...</p> | <p><b>Summarise</b></p> <p>So, in conclusion...</p> <p>To summarise..</p> <p>Overall, it is clear that...</p> <p>As a result..</p> <p>The bottom line is...</p>                                                   |



# HOMework

## 1 THE BENEFITS OF FREELANCING

**Task 1:** Read the article below, then complete the exercises on the following page.

In the modern landscape of work, freelancing has emerged as a compelling option for those seeking a different, more flexible approach to their careers. This growing trend offers a host of benefits that go beyond the traditional 9-to-5 grind. From increased autonomy to diverse opportunities, freelancing has proven to be a pathway to professional and personal fulfilment.

**Flexibility and autonomy:** Freelancers enjoy unparalleled control over their work schedules. This freedom allows individuals to balance their professional commitments with personal obligations, creating a healthier work-life integration. No more rigid routines and fixed office hours – freelancers can choose when, where, and how they work, leading to increased job satisfaction and less stress.

**Diverse opportunities:** Freelancers have access to a market that has diverse projects in many industries requiring different skill sets. This variety enables freelancers to continuously learn and grow by taking on different challenges. As a result, freelancers often develop a versatile skill set that sets them apart in an ever-evolving job market.

**High earning potential:** Unlike salaried positions, freelancers have the ability to set their own rates and take on multiple clients simultaneously. This means that freelancers have the potential to earn more than their traditionally employed counterparts, especially as they build their reputation and client base.

**Work-life balance:** Freelancing offers the opportunity to create a customised work-life balance. Freelancers can schedule their work around their personal lives, allowing them to be more present for family, hobbies, and other activities. This balance can lead to increased overall well-being and job satisfaction.

**Geographical independence:** With the rise of remote work and digital communication tools, freelancers can collaborate with clients and colleagues from around the world. This geographical independence broadens professional networks, and provides opportunities to experience different cultures and lifestyles.

**Personal growth and skill development:** Freelancers often wear multiple hats – they are not only responsible for their core work but also for client relationships, project management, and self-promotion. This juggling act fosters personal growth, enhancing skills beyond the realm of the specific job at hand.

In conclusion, freelancing offers a unique set of advantages that cater to the needs and aspirations of those seeking a different approach to work. From the freedom to design one's own schedule to the potential for increased earnings and personal growth, freelancing is reshaping the way we perceive and engage in professional pursuits. As the freelance economy continues to evolve, more individuals are discovering the power of embracing this lifestyle where autonomy, opportunity, and balance converge to create a fulfilling career path.





**Task 2: Write detailed answers to the following questions.**

1. What are some of the benefits that freelancing offers compared to traditional 9-to-5 employment?
2. How does freelancing provide increased flexibility and autonomy in comparison to a regular office job?
3. Describe how freelancers can take advantage of diverse opportunities to continuously learn and develop their skills.
4. Describe the potential of high-earning freelancers? How is this different from more traditional roles?
5. How does freelancing contribute to achieving a better work-life balance? Why is this important for overall well-being?
6. Explain the concept of geographical independence for freelancers and how it can broaden their professional horizons.
7. What are some challenges that freelancers might face in managing client relationships, project management, and self-promotion?
8. According to the article, how is freelancing reshaping the traditional approach to work and professional careers? Do you agree? Explain.
9. As the freelance economy continues to evolve, what impact do you think it might have on the overall job market and work culture?

**Task 3: Below are some perceived negatives of freelancing. Write an explanation for each one, detailing why they are seen as disadvantages.**

1. Irregular Income.

2. No Employee Benefits.

3. Inconsistent Workload.

4. Lack of Job Security.

5. Unpredictable Client Base.