



## 8 Reasons Working in the Office Beats Working Virtually

### 1: Onsite workers are easier to manage

In addition to the regular employee management that a team leader deals with, remote workers carry plenty of extra baggage that needs managing. Flexible hours may be enough to ease workers ability to work onsite.

### 2: Office work is nurturing

Julie Kortens, head of corporate services at British TV broadcaster Channel 4, suggested a few of the benefits of working onsite — especially for younger staff. "You need guidance as you're developing," she said, adding that it's important for young people to have a sense of belonging and that they needed to know the rules and boundaries between work and play before taking advantage of remote working.

### 3: Remote working tools are poor

Video chat tools like Google Hangouts and Zoom have improved tremendously, but they continue to suffer from connectivity issues, background noise, and "the loudest voice in the room" dynamics. They're also not designed for ongoing collaboration between more than two people. They were designed for 1-on-1 meetings.

### 4: Some employees don't want to telecommute

Loneliness might be the most common issue expressed by remote workers. Working from home can be empowering: No commute. No open office distractions. But it can be isolating to work an entire day or week without face-to-face interaction, especially for more extroverted personalities.

### 5: Some employees can't telecommute

Not everybody has that certain combination of skills to successfully work from home. Remote workers must show better discipline, communication skills, and punctuality than their office-bound colleagues. In other words, they have to run faster just to keep up.

### 6: Many jobs can't be done remotely

Manufacturing jobs especially require physical contact with the work environment to accomplish required work.

### 7: Communication is easier in the office

Can you share a pizza in a video conference? No. Can you share donuts using Windows Messenger? No. And what happens when you communicate less effectively with your peers? They trust you less. Remote workers must be even more contactable than their office-based colleagues or trust goes out the window.

### 8: Working onsite fosters innovation

Steve Jobs bought a former canning factory in Emeryville, California, to house his animation studio, Pixar. The office was arranged around a central atrium, where the café and a single set of loos was situated, forcing employees to engage with one another and to wait, to chat and to



generate ideas. “We wanted to find a way to force people to come together,” Jobs said of the design. “To create a lot of arbitrary collisions of people.”

## **8 Reasons Working Virtually Beats Working in the Office**

### **1: Remote workers are less stressed**

People who work from home have an easier time eating healthy and striking a manageable work-life balance. This can make you less stressed, which will make for a happier, more productive workday. And there is no stressful commute.

### **2: Remote workers can be well connected**

Smartphones and social media help remote workers communicate effectively. Other techniques that ensure effectiveness are scheduling meetings using Skype or similar technology, Use Slack or Fleep for real-time messaging; Google Docs to share documents, Excel, Powerpoint for collaboration; Zoom for remote meetings and to share screens; and ‘I Done This’ for checking in remotely.

### **3: Remote workers are happier**

Who wouldn’t want to spend more time sleeping in, wear whatever they want (even pjs...shhhh!) and hug their puppy every now and then during the day?? [TinyPulse](#) studied telecommuters and it clearly showed that remote workers are happier because of their flexibility in choosing to work wherever they want and whenever they want, and they can accommodate their families much better.

### **4: Remote working is more productive**

A two-year Stanford study found that there was “an astounding productivity boost among the telecommuters” that was actually equivalent to a full day’s work. No, not kidding. The study actually demonstrated that remote workers get double the amount of work done when working from home rather than the office. Working from home can be much less distracting than being in a busy office with endless conversations/people around every corner (or cubicle).

### **5: Companies benefit from happier remote employees**

Considering that remote employees are happier than in-office employees, it should come as no surprise that there is less turnover in companies that allow their employees to work remotely. And a nice extra: remote workers take shorter breaks, have fewer sick days, and take less time off.

### **6: Remote workers are more engaged**

Nationwide's Wilkinson said, "When you're tweeting with people in your team close to midnight, it brings home that people are experiencing something beyond 'doing work' — they're engaged in a different way." Keep them engaged by regular communication so they remain connected to



the office, make sure they have updated tools and be sure to reward their accomplishments just as if they were in the office.

### **7: Remote venues are better than the office**

Remote work includes employees working from home and those working outside the office several days a week from multiple locations, freelancers who permanently work from a variety of locations, the co-working-space crowd, and digital nomads. "Flexible working isn't just office or home — there may be somewhere near home with better facilities," said Celia Donne, global operations director of Regus.

### **8: No More Commuting or High Car Expenses**

Working outside the home not only takes a lot of time, especially if you have a long commute, but there are also job-related expenses. Americans spend \$368.09 a month on gasoline, according to an exclusive analysis of data by the Oil Price Information Service. Cutting down on a daily commute would put some of that money back in your pocket. Other expenses many don't consider are tolls, wear and tear on the car, and more frequent tune-ups. And well...less stress from battling the traffic!!

Working from home isn't for everyone. For instance – do you become annoyed at the interruptions from co-workers and find you can work more quickly and efficiently in a quiet atmosphere? Or do you love the buzz of the office and need collaboration from co-workers? There are traits all virtual workers need in order to be successful. Some of those are self-motivation, independent tendencies, good communication skills, require minimal direction and have an ability to solve problems. Either way, if your company allows flex-time, think seriously about what works best for you. Then go be successful!

