

B1

Working Independently at Labman

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Working independently is crucial for personal development, improving productivity, and ensuring high-quality work. When I'm assigned a task with a deadline, I typically start by creating user stories and estimating the time needed for each. This helps me structure my work effectively. For example, in a recent project, I developed the following user stories with estimated completion times:

```
As an hourly-holidays user,  
I want to see my remaining holiday in hours,  
so I can easily track how much holiday I have left.
```

Estimated duration: 30 minutes

```
As a daily-holidays user,  
I want to only take a minimum of half a day (4.5 hours),  
so I can comply with the company policy.
```

Estimated duration: 2 hours

...

```
As a holiday manager,  
I want a graph showing holiday usage over time,  
so I can identify trends in when holidays are most frequently taken.
```

Estimated duration: 2 days

Given that I was given only 2 days to complete the project, but the total estimated time for all the user stories was 4 days, I had a discussion with the person who assigned me the task. After reasoning together, we decided to exclude the final user story to ensure I could meet the deadline.

In conclusion, this experience demonstrates the importance of clear communication and realistic time management when working independently. By structuring the project into specific user stories and estimating their durations, I was able to spot early on that the initial requirements exceeded the available time. Through open dialogue with the task assigner, we found a viable solution to reduce the project scope and still meet the deadline—without compromising quality. This proactive approach, combining effective planning and collaborative decision-making, is essential for delivering successful outcomes under tight constraints.