

AXE 2

UNIT 5

SHORT CUT

# WORK TO LIVE OR LIVE TO WORK?

*How can workers balance  
their private lives and their work?*



## YOUR PROJECT

Interview two people to choose  
your next job.



Au menu de cette unité :

### DÉCOUVERTES CULTURELLES

- @ Travailler dans la Silicon Valley
- @ Le télétravail et le *remote work* aux États-Unis
- @ Un extrait littéraire de *The Circle*

### OUTILS LINGUISTIQUES

- @ *If* clauses (au présent et au passé)
- @ La concordance des temps dans la subordonnée
- @ L'expression de la concession

54



## BEFORE CLASS!

Flash to watch!

Watch this video. Be ready to talk  
about it in class!



VIDEO N°16



# 1 Google: the New Garden of Eden

*Why do tech giants in the US offer a large range of perks?*

## 1 Success and happiness

A. Read the text and answer the following questions:

- What is a unique job that you can find at Google?
- Why does Google spend so much on their employees?

B. Focus on Mark Twain's quote (l. 23-25). What does he mean? Do you agree with him? Justify.

C. Go further. Is Google's new management a trend of the future?

It's pretty well documented that Google has a unique culture. It's not the typical corporate culture. Just by looking at pictures inside the Googleplex<sup>1</sup>, you can see that it looks more like an adult playground<sup>2</sup>, not a place for work.

5 But Google's success can be attributed to this culture. Google has people whose sole<sup>3</sup> job is to keep employees happy and maintain productivity. It may sound too controlling to some, but it's how this world-changing organization operates. [...]

10 Obviously, all these perks come at a cost for Google. But so does employee dissatisfaction and high turnover<sup>4</sup>. There is a lot of competition for talent in Silicon Valley and when you can retain your employees, it means less time and money spent recruiting.

15 This culture has paid off for Google, as they consistently rank among the best places to work. [...] And Google doesn't view their culture as a "set it and forget it" program. They're actively changing and maintaining it, because it's crucial to their success.

20 With any business, it all starts with people. And if you want to run great business, you need great people. One way to get them there and keep them is by making their work fun. As Mark Twain said: "Work and play are words used to describe the same thing under differing conditions."

1 headquarters of Google • 2 a place for children to play  
• 3 unique • 4 renouvellement du personnel

## 2 Perks at Google

A. Read the list below and pick out three perks that would motivate you to work at Google. Explain your choices.

B. Debate. Are job perks the only way to enjoy work?

C. Have your say. Do you think that other companies should adopt the same methods as Google?

Why (not)?

### Some of the perks for working at Google

- Free breakfast, lunch, and dinner (the organic<sup>1</sup> food is chef-prepared)
- Free health and dental care
- On-site physicians<sup>2</sup>
- Free haircuts
- Free dry cleaning
- Gyms and swimming pools
- Nap pods
- Video games, table football, ping pong
- Indoor rock-climbing walls
- Massages, music lessons, and the option to bring their dogs to the office
- Hybrid car subsidies<sup>3</sup>
- Death benefits
- A median salary of \$140,000
- Free shuttle bus to work each day
- New dads can take up to six weeks off
- New moms can take up to 18 weeks off

1 bio • 2 doctors • 3 subventions

### HELP!

#### Nouns

- perk = advantage
- prisoner
- trap
- workaholic

#### Verbs & expressions

- blur the line
- improve life on a daily basis

- increase productivity
- lure sb: attirer qqn
- make sb feel at home
- side with ≠ differ from
- take a stand against
- as a matter of fact / actually
- due to / considering that

#### Cultural fact

Each year, Google gets over 2.5 million applicants. That's equal to 6,849 per day and about 5 per minute – and Google reviews each one.

## 2 A Homy Workplace

*What is at stake when your workplace becomes your home?*

### 1 Four Googlers talk about their experience



A. Look at these photographs. How do you think employees feel about their workplace?



B. Groupwork. Each group listens to an account and takes notes.



Group A listens to [MP3 n°26](#).



Group B listens to [MP3 n°27](#).



Group C listens to [MP3 n°28](#).



Group D listens to [MP3 n°29](#).

C. Exchange views with the other groups and recap the positive and negative aspects of working at Google. Then give your opinion about "blurring lines" between your personal and professional life. 



Google offices in Toronto, Canada



Google campus in Dublin, Ireland



Google Headquarters in California, USA

### YOUR TURN! 2 Apply for a job at Google!

Send a video application explaining who you are, why you want to work for Google and how you can contribute. Remember: Google wants people who are unique!

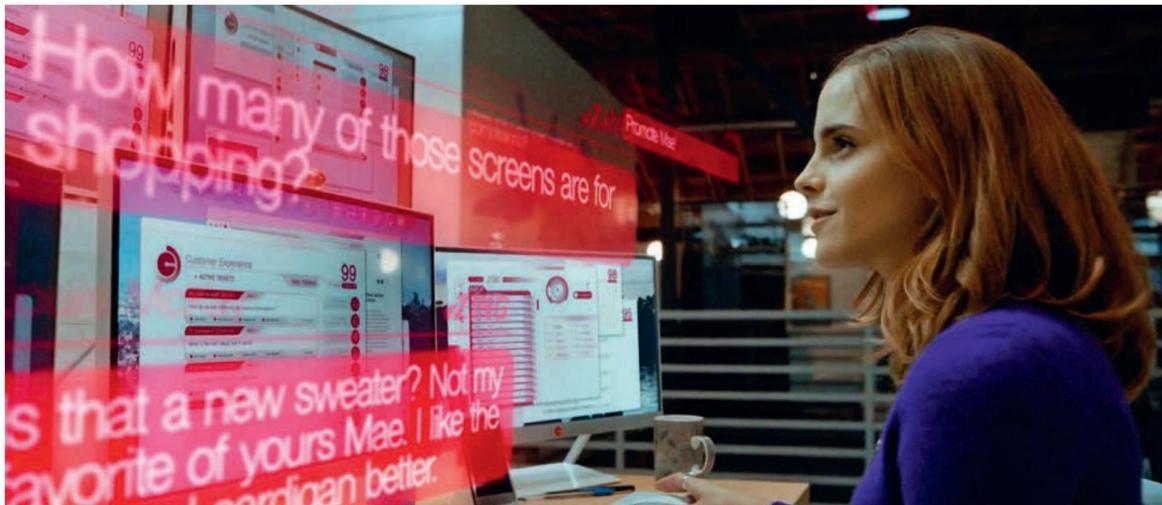
#### Help!

- My skills / skill set...
- I have experience in...
- My hobbies include...
- I'm the right person for the job!
- Hire / Pick me!

### 3 When work is your whole life

- A. Online, watch the trailer for *The Circle*.
- B. What do you think of their motto: "Sharing is caring"?
- C. "The needs of society and individuals should be the same." Do you agree with Mae's answer?
- D. How would you characterise Eamon Bailey's vision of technology and humanity?
- E. **Have your say.** Should we give up privacy to achieve a "better world"?

### 4 "The Circle"



Mae opened the intra-company stream and began. There were company-wide notices about each day's menus, each day's weather, each day's words of the wise<sup>1</sup> – last week's aphorisms<sup>2</sup> were from MLK<sup>3</sup>, Gandhi, Salk, Mother Teresa and Steve Jobs. There were notices about each day's campus visits: a pet adoption agency, a state senator, a Congressman from Tennessee, the director of Médecins Sans Frontières. Mae found out, with a sting of remorse, that she'd missed, that very morning, a visit from Muhammad Yunus, winner of the Nobel Prize. There were surveys, at least 50 of them, gauging the Circlers' opinions on various company policies, on optimal dates for upcoming gatherings, interest groups, celebrations and holiday breaks. There were dozens of clubs soliciting members and notifying all of meetings: there were cat-owner groups – at least 10 – a few rabbit groups, six reptile groups, four of them adamantly snake-exclusive. Most of

all, there were groups for dog-owners. She counted 22, but was sure that wasn't all of them. One of the groups dedicated to the owners of very small dogs, Lucky Lapdogs, wanted to know how many people would join a weekend club for walks and hikes and support; Mae ignored this one. Then, realising that ignoring it would only prompt a second, more urgent, message, she typed a message, explaining that she didn't have a dog. She was asked to sign a petition for more vegan options at lunch; she did. There were nine messages from various work-groups within the company, asking her to join their subCircles for more specific updates and information sharing. For now she joined the ones dedicated to crochet, soccer, and Hitchcock.

<sup>1</sup> advice • <sup>2</sup> proverb expressing a general truth •

<sup>3</sup> Martin Luther King

*The Circle*,  
Dave Eggers, 2013



- A. Look at the picture. Imagine what her job consists in. How does Mae feel?
- B. Read the text and list all the different campus visits, clubs and groups. What does the list of

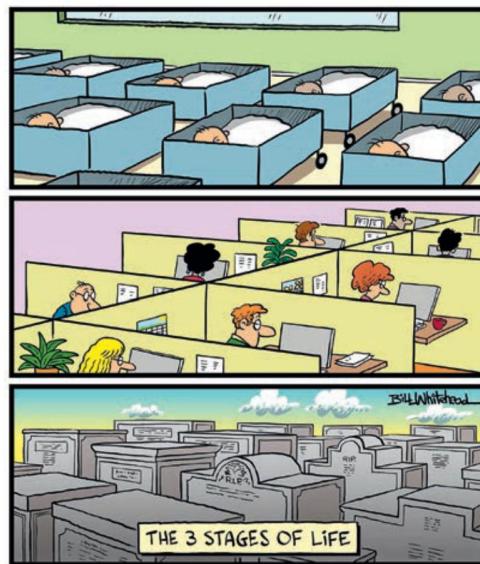
possible groups imply? What might the effect be on the employees?  
**C. Go further.** What atmosphere is created by the author in this excerpt? What is the author's goal?

# 3 Other Working Trends

Why are new ways of work emerging?

## 1 The three stages of life

- A. **Pairwork.** Look at this cartoon and describe it.  
B. What is the message? Do you agree with it? Why (not)?  
C. **Have your say.** Are there alternatives to this life?



## 2 Freedom at last

- A. Read the text.  
B. Why is remote work attractive?  
C. **Have your say.** Would you like to work from home? Why (not)?

Think of it this way: instead of commuting<sup>1</sup> to an office each day to work from a designated desk, remote employees can execute their projects and surpass their goals wherever they please. People have the flexibility to design their days so that 5 their professional and personal lives can be experienced to their fullest potential and coexist peacefully.

### What is remote work?

Some people have the opportunity to work remotely for the majority of the working week, but have to commute<sup>1</sup> to in-10 person meetings at the office one day a week. On a typical day, these remote employees work from their home offices or nearby cafés and can work from their company's office when it's necessary.

Others rely on<sup>2</sup> coworking spaces to be the spots where 15 they can get the job done. Coworking spaces act as hubs<sup>3</sup>

of productivity, community, and technology, offering great network connectivity and opportunities to meet others who work in a multitude of industries. You might even say that coworking are a halfway point between a traditional office 20 and a nontraditional workspace, giving you the comfort of working from home and combining it with the professional amenities<sup>4</sup> and networking opportunities that you'd find in a corporate environment.

### Jobs that can be done remotely

25 As technology continues to advance, remote work is becoming more common in a multitude of industries. From those that you'd expect to those that are a bit more surprising.

1 to drive back and forth • 2 to count on someone / something •

3 centre • 4 équipements

## 3 Pros and cons of teleworking

- A. **Before listening.** What is teleworking? What are the advantages and disadvantages?  
B. Listen to **MP3 n°30** and check your answers.  
C. Which companies use this method? How do people feel about teleworking? Use **Worksheet n°15** for help.



### HELP!

#### Adjectives

- remote ≠ on site

#### Verbs & expressions

- a lifetime opportunity
- terminate = fire = lay off someone
- be on the same page
- take over one's life

#### Tools

- one day a week / once a week / a few times a week
- once in a while / hardly ever / very seldom

## YOUR PROJECT

Interview two people to choose your next job!

**Groupwork.** Your application for a job at Google was successful. You have also been offered a remote job at "New York Life Insurance Company". You are torn between the two options. Meet with an employee of each company to help you make your choice. Use **Worksheet n°16** for help.

# LANGUAGE LAB



- Unit's vocabulary
- Audio words
- MP3
- Interactive Test

## ★ 1. Put the verbs in the appropriate tense.

- A. If I get this position, I (**be**) very happy!  
 B. If they fired Joshua, John (**can**) take his job.  
 C. If I work hard enough, I (**make**) a lot of money.  
 D. If they tried harder, they (**succeed**).

## ★ 2. Fill in the blanks with the following words.

- motivational • restrain • motivation • care for  
 • trapped • cubicles • perks*
- A. Earning a lot of money is ..., but should it be your sole ...?  
 B. Companies ... their employees, but turning the workplace into a second home can ... employee's freedom.  
 C. To hire the best employees Yahoo offers them many ....  
 D. Are humans meant to spend their lives ... in ...?

## ★★ 3. Put the verbs in the appropriate tense.

- A. He will be happy as soon as he (**get**) a pay rise.  
 B. Pam will be better paid when she (**move**) to NYC.  
 C. Peter wonders when the crisis (**stop**).  
 D. Sarah will retire as soon as she (**be**) 65.

## ★★ 4. What are the benefits and disadvantages of teleworking? Make as many sentences as possible using the words below and *although* and *despite of*.

*flexibility • commute • solitude • share • peers • miscommunication • quiet • focus • socialise*

## ★★★ 5. Classify these feelings in the chart below. Then write at least two sentences explaining why you would(not) work in Silicon Valley.

*delighted • frustrated • wrecked • ecstatic • pleased • devastated • contented*

Positive	Negative
...	...

## ★★★ 6. Translate these sentences.

- A. She said she would retire as soon as she was ready.  
 B. Bob claimed he would work for a multinational company when he was in London.

## 7. Interactive test! What is your score?

## OPEN YOUR EARS!



### TRAVEL WITH ACCENTS!

- Écoutez ces deux enregistrements et trouvez les différences entre la prononciation des mots en gras.



In the 1970s, IBM was on the **forefront** of telework. And over time, 20 percent of the company's employees **worked** primarily from home. But last year, the company **started** recalling about 2 percent of its employees back into the office.

- Entraînez-vous à répéter ces phrases.

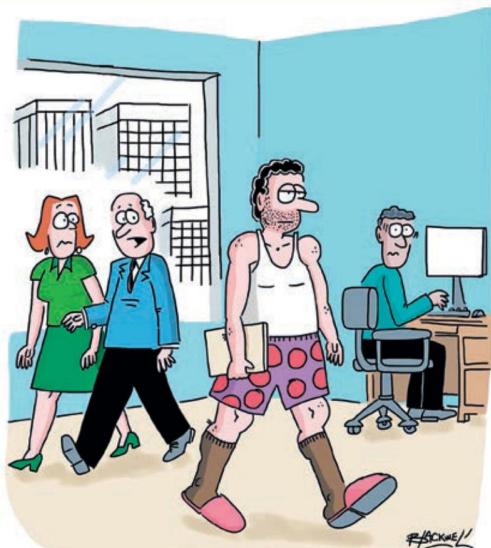
### AUDIO MYSTERY

Listen to this job ad and find out the mystery word.

## Picture challenge

- ★ 3 sentences
- ★★ 4 to 6 sentences
- ★★★ 7 sentences and +

How many sentences can you make using what you have learnt? Collect stars!



"I THINK FRANK MAY BE WORKING FROM HOME TOO MUCH!"