

Flexible Workplaces

Today, more companies are embracing the idea of flexible workplaces. This means employees can choose where and when they work. Some may choose to work from home, while others may prefer to work in a shared office. To make this possible, companies use digital tools like video conferencing and online project management systems. This way, everyone can stay connected and work together efficiently.

Your story should begin with this sentence: **One day, Haruki was talking to his co-worker about the long commute to work.**



- 1 According to the passage, how do companies enable employees to work from different locations?
- 2 Now, please look at the picture and describe the situation. You have 20 seconds to prepare. Your story should begin with the sentence on the card. [20 seconds] Please begin.

Now, Mr. / Ms. _____, please turn the card over and put it down.
- 3 Some people say that working from different places can make employees happier and more productive. What do you think about that?
- 4 Today, many people spend a lot of time watching TV shows and movies on streaming services. Do you think this is a good way to spend time? Yes. → Why? No. → Why not?

Example Answers:

1. By using digital tools like video conferencing and online project management systems.
2. One day, Haruki was talking to his co-worker about the long commute to work. His co-worker said, "Why don't you try remote work?" Haruki was surprised. The next week, Haruki was at home. He was having a video conference with people from his office. He thought it was very convenient to work this way. Later that month, Haruki was working in a shared office with other remote workers.
3. I agree. Being able to choose where to work can make people happier and do a better job. But, it's also important to stay organized and manage your time.
4. No. I understand that it can be a good way to relax. However, I think it's important to balance screen time with other activities, like reading, doing exercise, or meeting friends.