
Why work doesn't happen at work

[listening comprehension questions]

Author: Jason Fried

Date: Oct 2010

Time: (15:21)

Location: TED TALKS

Level: **** [B1/B2]

Link: https://www.ted.com/talks/jason_fried_why_work_doesn_t_happen_at_work

Check these words before listening:

Key vocabulary

1. Non-profit companies / charities
2. Perfectly reasonable
3. Location – porches / deck / basement
4. Cuisinart (google this)
5. A conference call
6. uninterrupted time
7. long stretches
8. To stick around
9. Phenomenon
10. Phase-based, or stage-based
11. To cite
12. Ridiculous
13. Involuntary
14. Poisonous / toxic
15. Spontaneous
16. Productivity
17. To remedy
18. Well-equipped
19. Casual Friday
20. To bother someone
21. Incredibly valuable
22. Erase it
23. To think about laying off a little bit,
24. It'll all pay off in the end

Copyright: These materials are photocopiable but please leave all logos and web addresses on handouts. Please don't post these materials onto the web. Thank you

Why work doesn't happen at work

TED TALK: Jason Fried [Oct 2010. 15:21]

Explain what you understand

1. Main idea?
2. 3 places say where they go to get work done?
 - i)
 - ii)
 - iii)
3. The main reason work doesn't happen at work
4. The 2 reasons why managers say working at home is bad. What's the counter-argument?
 - i)
 - ii)
5. What is the reference to 'm & m's'? What is the problem with a ten person meeting?
6. The 3 suggestions
 - i)
 - ii)
 - iii)

Critical thinking?? *What do you think about this lecture? Do you agree that work doesn't happen at work? Would you work better at home? Do you agree with the reasons? What are the important points for working in an office? Will work philosophy change in the future? Anything else?*

Why work doesn't happen at work ANSWERS

1. Main idea?

Why work doesn't seem to get work done at the office.

Companies rent office, payout for furniture / software / make everyone come to the at location but full of distractions.

2. Three places where people say they go to get work done?

1. Place (porch / deck / kitchen / extra room / basement / coffee shop / library)

2. moving object (train / plane / car)

3. time (early morning / late in evening / weekends)

3. The main reason work doesn't happen at work

Distractions: In office - Trading 'work moments' 15 minutes here / 30 minutes there
Creative people (designers/programmers / writers) need long stretches of uninterrupted time

Ever had 8 hours to yourself? 5, 3, 4?

Sleep example; (once woken difficult to get back to where you were in your sleep)

4. The 2 reasons why managers say working at home is bad. What's the argument against this?

Home Interruptions are TV / go for a walk / couch / fridge

Managers say '*too many distractions at home and if I can't see them how do I know work is being done*'.

Argument – these are 'voluntary distractions' at home but in the office are involuntary

Extra point: Managers and bosses say social media (Facebook, Twitter, You Tube) are the real distractions and ban them – However, like smoking breaks

5. What is the reference to 'm & m's'? What's the problem with 10 people meetings?

1. **Managers and meetings** = real problem

2. Manager's job is to interrupt people / meetings are incredible toxic

3. Problems: are 10 people ready to stop? What if you're thinking / working on something important??

4. 1-hour meeting = 10 people = a 10-hour meeting (10 hours of productivity lost)

6. Suggestions

1) No talk day (e.g; Thursday afternoon).

2) Change modes of communication (email / I.M) the difference is that you choose when to answer it, unlike a tap on the shoulder.

3) Cancel your meeting completely.

It will pay off in the end