

Twitter employees can work at home forever

15th May, 2020



The boss of Twitter has told many of his employees that they can work from home forever if they want to. CEO Jack Dorsey told many workers on Tuesday that they will be allowed to work from home even after the

coronavirus pandemic ends. A Twitter spokesperson said: "Opening offices will be our decision. When and if our employees come back, will be their [decision]." Twitter was one of the first companies to allow workers to work from home after the COVID-19 pandemic started. The spokesperson said it would not be, "one of the first to return to offices". Twitter said most of its offices would not open before September. It added when they do open, it would be "careful, intentional, office by office and gradual".

Twitter said it was in a good position to have many of its workers working from their home. It is an online company so many employees and bosses can contact each other on video conferencing platforms like Zoom. The company said: "We were uniquely positioned to respond quickly and allow folks to work from home, given our emphasis on decentralization and supporting a distributed workforce capable of working from anywhere." It added: "The past few months have proven we can make [working from home] work. If our employees are in a role and situation that enables them to work from home and they want to continue to do so forever, we will make that happen."

Sources: nbcnews.com / cnbc.com / bbc.com

Writing

All companies should let employees work at home if they can. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

boss / employees / coronavirus / decision / company / pandemic / office / careful / position / online / video conferencing / emphasis / home / role / situation / forever

True / False

- a) The boss of Twitter said he would work at home forever. T / F
- b) Twitter said its workers must return to work after the pandemic ends. T / F
- c) Twitter was the very first company to let workers work from home. T / F
- d) Twitter said it would open office by office. T / F
- e) Bosses and employees only use mail and phones to contact each other. T / F
- f) Twitter said it was in a unique position to let staff work at home. T / F
- g) Twitter has proven working at home works. T / F
- h) Twitter said if employees want to work at home forever, they can. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. boss | a. importance |
| 2. allowed | b. return |
| 3. ends | c. permitted |
| 4. come back | d. react |
| 5. gradual | e. for good |
| 6. position | f. head |
| 7. respond | g. step-by-step |
| 8. emphasis | h. employees |
| 9. workforce | i. is over |
| 10. forever | j. situation |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of Twitter?
- b) What do you think of working from home?
- c) Would you like to work from home forever?
- d) What do you think of working in an office?
- e) Do people do more work when working from home?
- f) How will COVID-19 change the way people work?
- g) Where is your perfect work location?
- h) Is it better to be an employee or employer?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. they can work from home forever | a. by office |
| 2. they will be | b. of the first |
| 3. Opening offices will be our | c. so forever |
| 4. it would not be one | d. each other |
| 5. office | e. decision |
| 6. Twitter said it was in | f. if they want to |
| 7. employees and bosses can contact | g. anywhere |
| 8. We were uniquely positioned | h. a good position |
| 9. capable of working from | i. allowed to work from home |
| 10. they want to continue to do | j. to respond quickly |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think working for Twitter would be like?
- What are the best things about working from home?
- What are the worst things about working from home?
- Is video conferencing better than face-to-face meetings?
- How good a worker are you?
- Would you be a good boss?
- What questions would you like to ask Twitter's CEO?

Spelling

- they will be lelodaw to work from home
- after the coronavirus pediamcn ends
- Opening offices will be our ciedsoni
- one of the first to eunrrt to offices
- it would be "careful, tnoniinlate ...
- office by office and rgdaalu
- it was in a good oitpsino
- bosses can ctctoan each other
- odrpnes quickly
- given our ipeshasm
- apbcafe of working from anywhere
- in a role and tsuaitno

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. c	3. i	4. b	5. g
6. j	7. d	8. a	9. h	10. e

Role Play

Role A – The Furniture

You think the furniture is the most important thing in a home. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the kitchen, the location or the smell.

Role B – The Kitchen

You think the kitchen is the most important thing in a home. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the furniture, the location or the smell.

Role C – The Location

You think the location is the most important thing in a home. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the kitchen, the furniture or the smell.

Role D – The Smell

You think the smell is the most important thing in a home. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the kitchen, the location or the furniture.

Speaking – Home

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about your home at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| • The kitchen | • The furniture |
| • The bathroom | • Wifi connection |
| • Your room | • The smell |
| • The location | • The outside |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.