

## The Podcast – Laura

**1** Match the words with their synonyms.

- |   |            |               |
|---|------------|---------------|
| 1 | main       | a usually     |
| 2 | restraint  | b principal   |
| 3 | redundant  | c qualified   |
| 4 | invariably | d instruction |
| 5 | skilled    | e unneeded    |
| 6 | loneliness | f limit       |
| 7 | training   | g isolation   |

Listen to the interview with Laura.

**2** Tick ✓ the subjects that Laura talks about.

- |               |                          |               |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| working hours | <input type="checkbox"/> | pay           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| emailing      | <input type="checkbox"/> | multitasking  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| phoning       | <input type="checkbox"/> | office gossip | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| training      | <input type="checkbox"/> | presentations | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Listen again and complete the following.

**3** Decide if the following are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Technology means that we do more with less.
- 2 Companies regularly invest a lot in training.
- 3 People are less skilled today because computers do everything for them.

**4** Answer the following questions.

- 1 What does Laura say is the main difference between the two pictures on page 18?
- 2 Why does Laura think that people can feel lonely when working?
- 3 How does Laura imagine life will be in the future?
- 4 How does Laura spend her time when she's not at work?

Discuss in pairs

**5** Decide if you agree or disagree with the following statement.

‘In ten years’ time, because of the advances in technology, we will all work from home and not in large office buildings.’

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### Teacher's Notes

1

1 b 2 f 3 e 4 a 5 c 6 g 7 d

2

emailing, phoning, training, multitasking, presentations

3

- 1 true
- 2 false
- 3 false

4

- 1 Laura thinks there is a contrast between the busy and noisy environment in the first picture and the busy but seemingly lonely atmosphere in the second.
- 2 People are interacting less with humans.
- 3 She hopes that we will be using technology to its full potential but that we still have human contact.
- 4 She switches her computer on, maybe calls a friend, looks on Facebook, perhaps has some music on in the background all at once.

5

Ask students to consider how they think the working environment will be in ten years' time. Invite them to discuss why they agree or disagree with the statement. You might want to divide your class in two and tell one group that they have to agree with the statement and the other has to disagree. Students should present the reasons why their group agrees or disagrees with the statement.