

Listen to this interview with 65-year-old Simon Bullough. He retired last year after 15 years employment with a car manufacturer.

Optional activity:

While you listen, decide whether the following statements are true or false.

Statement	True or False?
1. Simon stopped full-time employment last year.	
2. Simon still works occasionally.	
3. Simon is on a scheme called 'phased retirement'.	
4. The work Simon does is not very flexible.	
5. The company uses outside temporary workers too.	
6. Simon is able to use his old work contacts to get things done.	
7. Simon doesn't need any training.	
8. Simon doesn't pay tax on his earnings.	

Interviewer: Simon, how does it feel to be retired?

Simon: Well, you know, not so bad ...

Interviewer: How have you been spending your time?

Simon: Like everyone I've been spending more time with my family, I've also travelled a bit, you know off-season when every where's less crowded and hotels cost less ...

Interviewer: Great ...

Simon: You know I haven't stopped work completely ...

Interviewer: Yes, could you tell us more about this?

Simon: I'm on a scheme that's called 'phased retirement'. I had a 6 months break from work, after that I could apply for project work with the company I used to work for.

Interviewer: How does the scheme work?

Simon: Well, it's a trial at the moment. Instead of hiring temporary staff the company advertises posts on its website that retired employees like myself can access ..

Interviewer: What sort of work's advertised?

Simon: Well, all sorts of things really. Admin work – there's lots of that, then there's more specialised work, the sort of thing I can do. Some of the projects can be long term say for 5 or 6 months, others can just be a couple of days or weeks. Again the number of hours included in a project can vary. I can decide, more or less, when to work, you know I manage my own time – it's great, it's very flexible and I do it all from home ...

Interviewer: I can see it's good for you. What does your company get out of this?

Simon: Well, I still have all my old contacts at work, so I know who to contact to get something done – a temp brought in from outside doesn't have this knowledge so it takes them longer to get a job done. The company gets flexibility too. Once the job's over that's it, I'm not on their books any more. No training's required either, not yet anyway, so there are savings there too ..

Interviewer: Do you have to commit yourself to a certain number of hours a week?

Simon: Not at all. I can do as much or as little as I like ...

Interviewer: How about keeping your skills up to date?

Simon: I've got access to a lot of online courses, you know, e-learning – if I'm not sure of something I have a look there ...

Interviewer: Do you pay tax?

Simon: Sure. The tax situation's a bit complicated at the moment with this being a trial but I pay tax on what I earn, yes, unfortunately

Interviewer: And those holidays ...?

Simon: Well you know, I work in the summer when most people are on holiday – then its' time for my holiday . Holidays, sure we go to Europe three or four times a year ...

Listening activity answer:

Statement	True or False?
1. Simon stopped full-time employment last year.	True
2. Simon still works occasionally.	True
3. Simon is on a scheme called 'phased retirement'.	True
4. The work Simon does is not very flexible.	False
5. The company uses outside temporary workers too.	False
6. Simon is able to use his old work contacts to get things done.	True
7. Simon doesn't need any training.	False
8. Simon doesn't pay tax on his earnings.	False