

1. Read the quotes below. Do you agree or disagree with them? Why?

"Focus on being productive instead of busy." ~ Tim Ferriss

"The least productive people are usually the ones who are most in favor of holding meetings." ~ Thomas Sowell

"Stressing output is the key to improving productivity, while looking to increase activity can result in just the opposite." ~ Andrew Grove

2. Which of the factors listed below badly affect your productivity at work? Why?

- procrastination
- deadlines
- multitasking
- lack of a daily plan
- noise in your work environment
- email/message notifications
- meetings
- breaks
- cluttered desk or space
- interruptions from coworkers

**3. Complete the gaps with the correct prepositions.**

- Kyle takes his work seriously and is sensitive **to** criticism.
- We need a system to keep track **of** all our expenses.
- They are extremely fortunate to have such a professional as Richard **in** charge.
- Pay attention **to** what she's saying because she won't explain it a second time.
- The first few months he was running the company, Randy didn't really feel **in** control.
- Remind me **of/about** this conference because I'm likely to forget about it.
- She wanted her money to be used **for** the benefit of poor children.

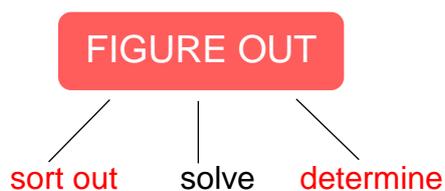
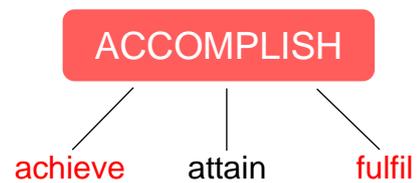
4. Watch the first [video](https://youtu.be/J3adQtRXNBw) about productivity [https://youtu.be/J3adQtRXNBw] and while listening take notes about tips 1-3 (STUDENT A) and 4-5 (STUDENT B). Exchange information with your partner about these productivity tips.

- 1) Picture your day, build a mental model of what's going to happen in a day
- 2) Look for choices that make you feel in control
- 3) Add big goals to the top of the to-do list and below write SMART sub-goals
- 4) Make sure everyone has the same chance to talk during a meeting
- 5) Force yourself to turn to someone else and explain a new fact to them

5. Discuss the questions.

- Which tips do you find useful?
- Which of them do you use in your job regularly?
- What are your own ways and methods of boosting productivity at work?

6. Add two more synonyms to the words in the boxes.



7. In pairs, discuss the questions.

- Do you ever use to-do lists at work or in your private life?
- How often do you write and update them?
- What aspects do you include on your to-do lists? Do you go into details or just note some general tasks?

8. Watch the second [video](https://youtu.be/xCkEwbRaWBU) [https://youtu.be/xCkEwbRaWBU] and answer the questions below.

a) What do most people do wrong when writing to-do lists?

People write tasks they've already accomplished at the top of their to-do lists and they'll cross them off because it feels so good to have a couple of things checked off.

b) What is a stretch goal? What examples of such a goal did the speaker give?

A stretch goal is an ambition or a task that's so big that you don't know exactly how to do all of it right, e.g. I want to lose 30 pounds or I want to figure out a brand new supplier for my company or I want to start my own company.

c) What are SMART goals?

A SMART goal is a specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-based sub-goal of a stretch goal.

9. Read the text below and create your own to-do list with a stretch goal and at least five sub-goals. Make sure your sub-goals are SMART.

According to Charles Duhigg, an effective to-do list should consist of stretch goals and SMART goals. Stretch goals are large and ambitious, e.g. starting a company, while SMART goals are short-term, concrete steps required to achieve a stretch goal. Getting things done will be much easier when you have a stretch goal and several SMART goals connected to it.



SAMPLE TO-DO LIST

Start my own company (stretch goal)

- a) choose a brand name fit for your business by the end of the week
- b) register a web domain for your business on Monday
- c) prepare a list of 5 possible locations for your business within 10 days
- d)