

JASON FRIED: WHY WORK DOESN'T HAPPEN AT WORK

Jason Fried has a radical theory of working: that the office isn't a good place to do it. In his talk, he lays out the main problems (call them the M&Ms) and offers three suggestions to make work work. Jason Fried thinks deeply about collaboration, productivity and the nature of work. He's the co-founder of 37signals, makers of Basecamp and other web-based collaboration tools, and co-author of "Rework."

① Before watching the first part of the talk, work out the following words:

1. non-profits and charities
2. to commute to work = *when*?
3. to realize smth = *give a synonym*
4. to go through some period in life
5. meaningful work
6. creative people = *give examples of jobs*
7. distraction = *positive or negative*?

Now watch the first part of the talk and answer the following questions:

- o What is the typical organization of work in the world?
- o What are three typical answers to the question: where do you really need to go when you need to get something done?
- o What is so special about the work of creative people?

② Before watching the second part of the talk, match the following words with the synonyms:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| IT TAKES A WHILE | a) done because you wanted it |
| IT TURNS OUT THAT | b) it's quite a long process |
| VOLUNTARY | c) to prohibit, to forbid |
| TO BAN THE WEBSITE | d) tightly connected |
| CLOSELY RELATED | e) I didn't expect it, but ... |

Now watch the second part of the talk and mark the following statements true or false:

- o Sleep and work are closely related, because you can work while you're sleeping and you can sleep while you're working.
- o People can't be expected to work well in the office because of the constant interruptions.
- o At the office, most of the distractions are voluntary, which is the biggest issue.
- o The speaker compares Facebook and Twitter with smoke breaks and suggests that these websites should be banned – just like smoke breaks during the workday.
- o Managers have to keep an eye on other people and become this way a major source of interruption.

③ Before watching the third part of the talk, work out the following words:

- a spontaneous meeting =
- incredibly disrupting =
- all of a sudden =
- tremendous amount of work =
- it bothers me =
- it'll pay off in the end =

Now watch the third part of the talk and answer the following questions:

- o How do meetings influence productivity?
- o What are two major problems in businesses today?
- o What three suggestions does the speaker make to remedy the situation?
- o What is your opinion about these suggestions? Do you know any other ways to make work more productive?

http://www.ted.com/talks/jason_fried_why_work_doesn_t_happen_at_work.html