

 BUILDING BLOCKS STUDENT WORKSHEET

Researching the gig economy

Some hobbies or activities can turn into ways to make money. Being hired to do a single short-term task, project, or job can be called a “gig.”

This type of occasional work is part of what people call the “gig economy.” Understanding the gig economy’s benefits and drawbacks can help you decide whether earning money through gigs would work for you.

Instructions

- 1 Go to the Bureau of Labor Statistics website at <https://www.bls.gov/>.
- 2 Enter “gig economy” in the website’s search box. You can also search for the article “Working in a gig economy” on that site.
- 3 Use information from the site to answer the scenario questions.
- 4 Answer the reflection questions.

Gig scenarios

Scenario one

Keiko is trying to figure out if she wants gig work or not. She’s studying business at school, and she has a set schedule of when she is free to work every week. Keiko would like to explore ways to earn money from her hobbies like photography, cooking, or dog walking. She’s also saving up to buy a car, so she wants a steady income to meet her goals.

1. Imagine you’re Keiko’s friend. What are two benefits of gig work you would share with her?



2. What are two drawbacks to gig work you would share with Keiko?
3. Would you advise Keiko to get a job in the gig economy? Why or why not?

Scenario two

Jalen has thought about all the benefits and drawbacks to doing gig work and has decided that it's right for him. He's 18 years old, drives his own car, and is taking classes at his local community college. He needs a flexible schedule because he takes care of his younger siblings some afternoons and he sometimes joins a study group that meets in the evenings. He has a lot of experience taking care of his younger siblings, but his passion is playing guitar. He is fluent in Spanish and English and is studying web design at school.

1. What are three types of gig work Jalen may want to consider?

Reflection questions

1. What are two hobbies or skills you have that could become a gig?
2. Do you think a gig might be right for you? Why or why not?