**TELECOMMUTING**

Rita Carranza and her family get up early every morning during the week. They get dressed and have breakfast. Then Rita and her children go to the school bus stop on the corner. After that, Rita goes to work. She’s in her office in five minutes. Why? Because Rita works at home. Rita’s company office building is far from her house, but Rita doesn’t work in the office building. She is a telecommuter. She doesn’t commute by car or by bus. She “commutes” to work by telephone and the Internet.

Rita is a computer specialist, and she usually works 40 hours a week. She works in the morning and after lunch. Then she meets her children at the bus stop. Rita’s children do their homework when they get home, and then they all have dinner together. After her children are in bed, Rita sits at her computer and works in the evening. Rita doesn’t work in an office building, but she works very hard.

Rita likes telecommuting. She doesn’t drive two hours to and from work, and she’s at home with her children every day after school. She doesn’t need expensive work clothes, so she and her children have more money in the bank.

Rita’s boss likes telecommuters because they don’t usually need offices or furniture in the company building. Also, when people work at home, their homes are usually quiet and they work hard. And that’s good for companies.

In the United States, there are over 2.4 million telecommuters. Some telecommuters work at home full-time. Others work part-time. Fifty-three percent of telecommuters are men, and forty-seven percent are women. There are many different telecommuter jobs. Telecommuters are computer engineers, bookkeepers, administrators, typists, lawyers, and technology specialists.

Sometimes, however, telecommuters have problems. They don’t see other workers. They are home alone and their house is quiet. They’re very busy, but it isn’t easy. They aren’t in an office with other people. They don’t see other people at work every day.

1. Rita’s office is _____.
   - A. in her home
   - B. in an office building
   - C. five minutes from her home
   - D. near her children’s school

2. Rita is a _____.
   - A. boss
   - B. bookkeeper
   - C. lawyer
   - D. computer specialist

3. Rita is happy because she _____.
   - A. drives her car to the company office every day
   - B. needs expensive work clothes
   - C. is at home with her children every afternoon
   - D. sees other people at work every day

4. Telecommuting is ____ for companies.
   - A. bad
   - B. good
   - C. hard
   - D. expensive

5. In the United States, ____ percent of telecommuters are men.
   - A. 24
   - B. 40
   - C. 47
   - D. 53

6. This passage is about _____.
   - A. Rita’s children
   - B. Rita’s office building
   - C. telecommuting in the United States
   - D. problems with telecommuting

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**What do YOU think?**

1. Why is telecommuting good for people in rural and suburban areas?
2. What does a telecommuter usually have in a home office?
3. What kind of job is good for telecommuting?
4. Do you like to work alone or with other people? Is telecommuting good for you?