

Exercise 1a: Employment versus self-employed

First up is a worksheet that will help you understand how being employed is different from being self-employed.

Here's a check list of the kinds of things you could expect to have in either a job where you are paid to show up and work or if you are self-employed.

Read each point and then decide if that is something that is important to you or not. If it is very important, something you want a lot, then give that item 2 points. If it's something that is sort of important, something you want a little, then give that item 1 point. If it's something that's not at all important to you, then you don't give any points for that item.

	Being an employee	I want this		
		A lot 2 pt	A little 1 pt	Not at all 0 pt
1	I want someone to give me clear directions about the job I have to do.			
2	I want a boss to help me make sure I do my job well.			
3	I want a regular work schedule so I know when I have to be at my job and when my time is my own.			
4	I want to get a regular pay cheque every two weeks.			
5	I want my employer to provide health benefits, paid holidays, and paid sick days.			
	TOTAL			

	Being self-employed	I want this		
		A lot 2 pt	A little 1 pt	Not at all 0 pt
1	I want the independence to make decisions on my own.			
2	I am okay accepting responsibility when my decisions aren't the best.			
3	I want to create my own team of people to help me get my business started.			
4	I want to be able to set my own hours even if it means I have to work on weekends or at night to get my business going.			
5	I am happy to work long hours doing something I love.			
6	I am okay if I only make a very little bit of money in the first years of my business.			
7	I want to be able to choose which days I work and when I take holidays, even if I don't get paid when I'm not working.			
	TOTAL			

Once you've read all the statements, add up how many points you have in each list. If you have more points in the "Being self-employed" list, then explore starting your own business.

Even if you have more points in the "Being an employee" list, you still might want to look at more of the exercises in this Toolkit. The things you'll learn about yourself and your skills will help you figure out what kind of work you'll be best at and enjoy most. This is the same whether you're working for yourself or someone else.