

NPR / Co-Working Offers Community To Solo Workers

1 Laptops, cell phones and Wi-Fi give people the freedom to work just about anywhere. But being out of the office has some drawbacks, and now people are looking for something in between.

Kevin Prentiss started his Internet-based business from his apartment in New York City. For two years, he says it was 14-hour days in solitude - ironic, considering he runs a social networking site.

5 *Then one day he heard about New Work City. It's a rented office space in Manhattan where workers like Prentiss can drop in, hook up their laptops and work away with other people similarly mobile, while making face-to-face connections.*

Membership at New Work City is kind of like going to a gym. The plans range from \$150 a month for two visits per week, on up to getting your own key. It looks like any other typical start-up office
10 environment: there are two conference rooms, a main room with tables pushed together and a kitchen. There isn't a janitor. Everyone cleans up. There are snacks, soda and beer, too.

"It's real simple. If you take something, then just drop a dollar or two into the jar. And it works pretty well, as you can see."

New Work City is part of a trend that started a handful of years ago on the West Coast. Newly
15 mobile tech workers with laptops liked their freedom, but still missed the human interaction they got from going to an office. *California-based Emergent Research says co-working spaces continued to grow during the recession. Public libraries are also getting in on the trend by offering conferencing and other business services.* Kevin Prentiss says he likes the support he gets from other members at New Work City. He's even hired a few people that he's met there.

Work on words

Look up the following words in a dictionary and then use them in a sentence of your own.

drawback - run (not the fast pace!) - rent - drop in - hook up - work away - a plan (not a project!) - range (v) - janitor - clean up - drop (v) - handful - get in (on) - hire

What's the common point between the underlined words?

Work on pronunciation

Listen to the following words. How many syllables do they have? Which one is stressed? Use o O symbols to mark unstressed and stressed syllables.

about - ironic - considering - apartment - connection - environment -

conference - recession - interaction

Practice repeating the sentences in italics accurately reproducing the intonation pattern of the speaker. Copying them in your notebook beforehand might help.