



INGLÉS

24/7

Gavin Dudeney

Most of my work is done online these days, and I'm always surprised at how many people expect me to be available 24/7, answering emails as soon as they arrive, night or day.

It wasn't too long ago that people tended to work a fixed timetable – once the work was done they headed home and that was it for the day, but the rise of the Internet, online shopping and banking and other 'always on' services has given us the idea that everything should be available all of the time. And that's where the expression 24/7 comes in.

When something's 24/7 you can pretty much guarantee that it's always available, or that a service is offered all day, without interruptions, around the clock. The Oxford English Dictionary first included 24/7 way back in 1983, but it's only in recent years that it's become so widespread, covering shops, websites and even people.

These days you might even find 24/7/365, meaning that a service is available every day of the year – which more or less describes my work routine.

1. Match these words and phrases to their definitions. (1.2 marks)

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| a. a fixed timetable_____ | 1. when a process is temporarily stopped |
| b. always on_____ | 2. when the times that something happens never change |
| c. to be available_____ | 3. a long time ago |
| d. interruptions_____ | 4. something is never turned off or stopped |
| e. way back_____ | 5. very common and popular |
| f. widespread_____ | 6. you can get or have something |

2. Decide if the following statements are true or false, according to Gavin Dudeney. (1.5 marks)

- Gavin's clients are happy to wait for him to reply.....
- People haven't worked regular fixed hours for many years now.....
- Gavin gives four specific examples for 'always on'.....
- The phrase first appeared in the Oxford English dictionary in 1993.....
- Although not popular now, it will soon become widespread because of the Internet.....
- Gavin probably finds it hard to take a holiday.....

3. Find the phrases in the text that have the following meanings. (1 mark)

- return to your house.....
- almost certainly.....
- at all times in a day.....



4. There are many common number phrases that are used in English. Can you match numbers in the box to the definitions below? (1.8 marks)

the number one, a first, a 7/11(seven eleven) 50:50 (fifty fifty), 999, 9/11 (nine eleven), a 4x4 (four by four), the 90s, a certificate 18

- a. _____: this is the date the World Trade Center in New York was destroyed in 2001.
- b. _____: this is the name of a successful chain of convenience stores, which are open from early until late.
- c. _____: we say this when we are not sure that something will happen e.g. a football team may or may not win, and the chance of either happening is equal.
- d. _____: this refers to the most popular music/song at that moment.
- e. _____: this is the telephone number you ring in the UK if you need an emergency service, such as the police.
- f. _____: this is the highest mark that you can get in a university degree in the UK. It is equal to more than 70%.
- g. _____: this is used, in the UK, to show that a film is only suitable for adults.
- h. _____: this refers to a large car which is good for driving on poor quality roads because all of the wheels are powered by the engine.
- i. _____: this was the final decade of the last century.

5. Answer the following questions (2/3 lines each) (4.5 marks/ 0.75 each)

- a. Can you remember where you were when you heard about 9/11? Do you think the world and your society has changed much since then as a result of the terrorist attack?
- b. What is the emergency number in your country? Have you ever used it?
- c. What's your opinion of 4x4s? Are they cool? Are they environmental destroyers?
- d. What's number one at the moment? Do you like it?
- e. What fashion and music was popular in your country in the 90s?
- f. Does your society have any aspects or features of a 24/7 society?