

Read the text and answer the following questions:

1. Was it hard at the beginning when starting the company?
2. Do they work alone or do they have some employees?

'How hard was it to start your own company?'

When I first **set up** my company many years ago it wasn't very easy. Work kept **piling up** and I worked long hours. I was also almost always **tied up** and didn't have a lot of free time. It was extremely challenging to **wiggle out of** all that responsibility, because if I wouldn't **keep at** it I knew it would fail.

After some time it got easier and I started to make some more money. I was also getting too many job offers I could not fulfill, so at some point I **took on** some staff. That way I could **hand over** some of my responsibilities to others. This gave me some time to breath as well as **squeeze in** some more time for my family. I did have to **follow up on** some of the things my staff were doing, but it wasn't so time consuming.

Now the business is running smoothly, I have more work-life balance and really enjoy what I'm doing. I'm also lucky that I haven't had to **lay off** anyone yet. In the end I never thought I would be so successful, but I guess that hard work **paid off**.