



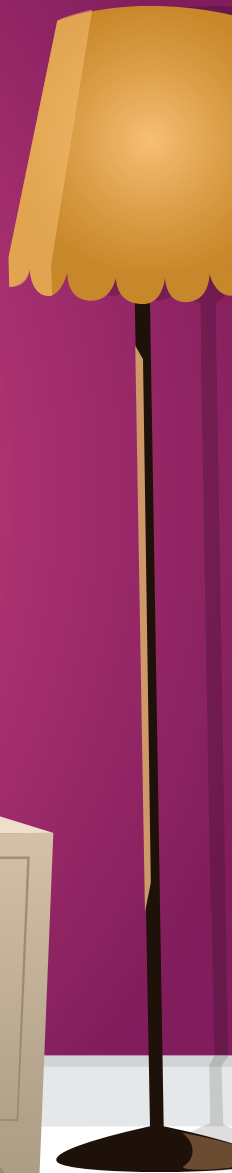
The
day the
Self-Employed
went on
STRIKE

Who are the self-employed?

Today, more people than ever before are choosing to work for themselves. Right now there are almost five million self-employed people in the UK – almost 15 per cent of our labour force.

The self-employed work in all kinds of professions across the country. They are our doctors, our strategists, our artists and actors, drivers and couriers, teachers and IT technicians. They are women and men, old and young – and you'll find them in almost every industry. They are so embedded in the fabric of the country that you might find you rely on them a little more than you expect...

*"The headlines today:
government and business
leaders are bracing themselves
as the UK's approximately five
million self-employed prepare
for strike action tomorrow. In a
press briefing this afternoon,
the Prime Minister said..."*





“Bracing themselves’?
Come on – this is ridiculous!
What difference is a few self-
employed people striking
going to make?”



"Henry... you know
I'm self-employed..."

The next morning...




"Okay kids: time for school,
let's go. Beth, don't you need
to be getting ready too?"



"No, it's the self-employed strike, remember:
I'm staying home today."

"Come on kids –
we need to hurry!"



An illustration of a man in a white shirt and tie running away from a woman in a yellow shirt standing in a doorway. The man is carrying a briefcase and has a worried expression. A speech bubble above him contains the text: "Oh yeah: the gardener would have been over to cut the lawn today... but of course, he's self-employed too." The scene is set in front of a brick house with a wooden fence and greenery in the background.

"Oh yeah: the gardener would have been over to cut the lawn today... but of course, he's self-employed too."

"I'm really sorry Mr Jenkins – didn't you get the phone message? So many of our support staff are part of the self-employed strike today that we've had to close the school. It's been chaos!"





So Henry quickly drops the kids back at home and then hurries to work. By now he's running late...

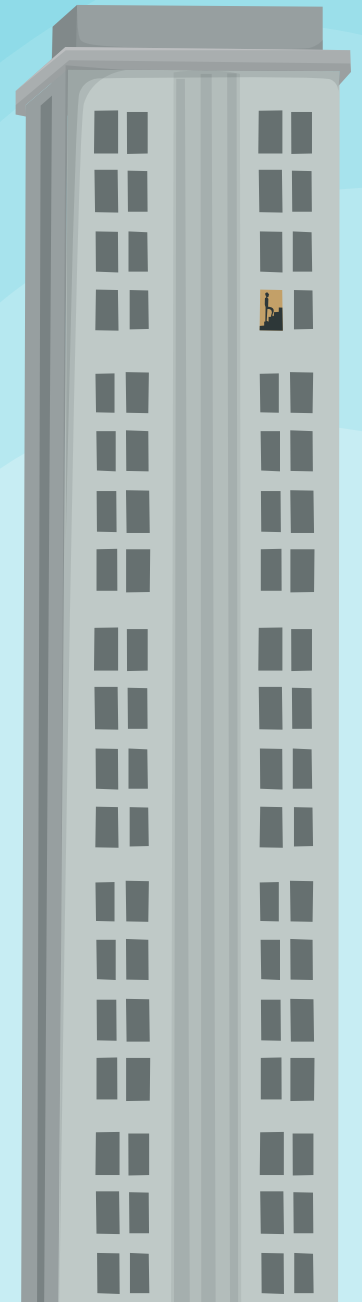
"Sorry Mr Jenkins: the lift mechanic
is self-employed, you see..."



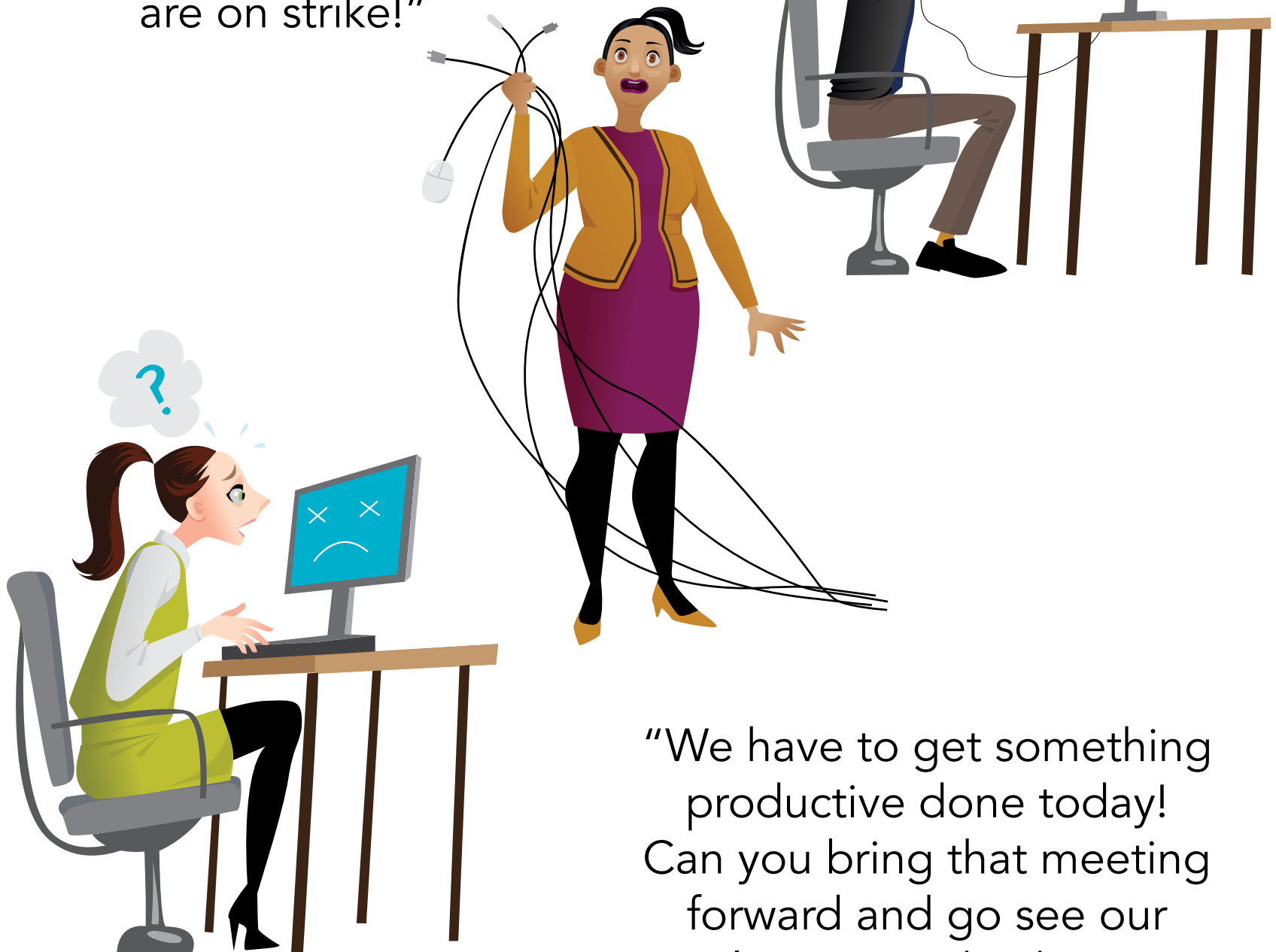
**It looks like Henry
will have to take
the stairs...**



**...all the way
up to his office...
on the top floor.**



"The computers are all playing up – our IT contractors are on strike!"



"We have to get something productive done today! Can you bring that meeting forward and go see our client in Sugbridge?"

"Sugbridge – that's miles away...
and I'm exhausted already."



"At least I can stop off
and get a bite to eat at my
favourite sandwich shop
before I head over."

"...What...?!"

As a franchise,
we are closed
today in
solidarity with
the strike.



So Henry sets off for his
meeting in Sugbridge angry
and hungry...



"Sorry sir, no through route here. Follow the diversion."

"What – why?!"

"Construction workers left the roadworks unfinished this morning. Part of this self-employed strike, you see sir. Now please follow the diversion!"





Henry turns to his GPS
for another route.

But it's not good news...

He may be in for a bit of a
countryside road trip.

"Ggggrrrrrrr..."

An hour later, progress is slow...



At last, the open road! Until...



F\$@£!!

"Why now!"

"Hi, my car's broken down
and I urgently need someone to
come and get it running again!"





"Sorry mate, I don't know what to tell you:
almost all our mechanics are self-employed
and they're off with this strike thing."



"I've got to get
to that meeting!
Maybe I'll try
a cab..."

"GGGGRRR!"

**"Looks like I'll
just have to start
walking... Great."**



**Henry's road trip turns into a rural
trek. And before long, things take
another turn for the worse...**

**Soon the country road is
a mire filled with puddles.**



"Aaaaarrgh!"

**Slipping in a puddle, Henry takes
a tumble and twists his ankle...**



**It's not all bad though.
As the sky starts to clear,
Henry limps into a nearby village.**



Doctor's
Surgery



**A friendly local man points the
way to the village surgery.**

CLOSED

**Sorry for the
inconvenience: our
locum GPs are off
today as part of
the self-employed
strike.**

**For emergencies
please contact
Sugbridge General.**

Exhausted, Henry gives up and starts to limp home.



But cutting across the fields, Henry sees
an open gate and suddenly hears a rather
strange noise...



"What!!"
"Who let these out?
Who left the gate open?!"

"Where are the farmhands?!"



"Oh wait – let me guess..."

"They're self-employed."



**While Henry's been trekking across the countryside,
things have been a little different for Beth and the kids at home...**



Everything is quiet in the warm living room except for the low hum of the radio in the background.

Until...

Suddenly... they hear a shuffling sound coming towards the door.





"Henry!"



So Henry, what difference did the self-employed strike make?



"I'm shattered! Well at least I can still get a takeaway delivered."

"Um, Henry..."





"Nooooooooo!"

The self-employed
contribute **£255bn**
to the economy every year

84%
of freelancers are
satisfied with their work

Only
3%
of freelancers want to stop
working in this way and
become an employee

4.8 million
people work for themselves
in the UK

About IPSE

IPSE is the Association of Independent Professionals and the Self Employed: the voice of self-employed people across the UK.

We represent and promote the interests not just of our members, but of all freelancers, consultants, contractors, interim managers and everyone else who works for themselves.

By campaigning in government and across the worlds of business and politics, we raise awareness and help to create a more positive, supportive environment for the self-employed.

ipse.co.uk



The day the *Self-Employed* went on **STRIKE**

A cautionary tale from **IPSE**, the Association of
Independent Professionals and the Self-Employed.

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Illustration: Dunni Mustapha