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Level 4

Japan attempts to ease working hours

5th March, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170305-working-hours-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170305-working-hours-4.html>

Japan is trying to ease the pressure on workers and boost consumer spending. It started a campaign called "Premium Friday". Workers are being encouraged to leave work earlier on the last Friday of the month to relax or go shopping. About 130 companies are participating. Doubters are unsure if the campaign will work. Japan's workers are famous for being workaholics. The government said: "It will take time for Premium Friday to take root."

Premium Friday followed the suicide of a man who was made to do too much overtime. A court said it was "death by overwork". It said overworking was a big problem. Japan's Prime Minister promoted the campaign by leaving the office at 3:30pm for a meditation session. The government said both the government and the private sector needed to make workers feel comfortable in leaving early. Many workers said they would just have to work on Saturdays.

Sources: <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/02/24/national/premium-friday-drive-kicks-off-energize-weary-workers-feeble-economy/>
<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-japan-overwork-reforms-idUSKBN16300C>
<https://www.japantoday.com/category/business/view/japans-first-premium-friday-shows-mixed-results>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170305-working-hours-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. ease the | a. "Premium Friday" |
| 2. boost consumer | b. workaholics |
| 3. a campaign called | c. of the month |
| 4. Workers are being encouraged | d. spending |
| 5. on the last Friday | e. are participating |
| 6. About 130 companies | f. pressure on workers |
| 7. famous for being | g. root |
| 8. time for Premium Friday to take | h. to leave work earlier |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Premium Friday followed the suicide | a. "death by overwork" |
| 2. made to do too | b. work on Saturdays |
| 3. A court said it was | c. much overtime |
| 4. overworking was | d. session |
| 5. a meditation | e. of a man |
| 6. the private | f. comfortable |
| 7. make workers feel | g. sector |
| 8. they would just have to | h. a big problem |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170305-working-hours-4.html>

Japan is (1) _____ the pressure on workers and boost consumer spending. It (2) _____ called "Premium Friday". Workers are being encouraged to leave (3) _____ the last Friday of the month (4) _____ shopping. About 130 companies are participating. Doubters (5) _____ the campaign will work. Japan's workers are famous for being workaholics. The government said: "It will take time for Premium Friday (6) _____."

Premium Friday followed (7) _____ man who was made to do too much overtime. A court (8) _____ by overwork". It said overworking (9) _____. Japan's Prime Minister promoted the campaign by leaving (10) _____ 3:30pm for a meditation session. The government said both the government and the private sector needed to make workers feel (11) _____ leaving early. Many workers said they would just (12) _____ Saturdays.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170305-working-hours-4.html>

Japan is trying to ease the pressure on workers and boost consumers spending. It started a campaign called "Premium Friday". Workers are being encouraged to leave work earlier on the last Friday of the month to relax or go shopping. About 130 companies are participating. Doubters are unsure if the campaign will work. Japan's workers are famous for being workaholics. The government said: "It will take time for Premium Friday to take root." Premium Friday followed the suicide of a man who was made to do too much overtime. A court said it was "death by overwork". It said overworking was a big problem. Japan's Prime Minister promoted the campaign by leaving the office at 3:30 pm for a meditation session. The government said both the government and the private sector needed to make workers feel comfortable in leaving early. Many workers said they would just have to work on Saturdays.

WORKING HOURS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170305-working-hours-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about working hours in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170305-working-hours-4.html>

Write about **working hours** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner’s paper.
