



WORKING HOURS



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:

192H-U1BU-I3M

1

Key words

Read the sentences below and match the underlined words and phrases to their definitions.

1. The newspaper reported that the company is going to move its head office to another country.
2. The staff were very happy, so the company had a low turnover.
3. Jane is not at work this month. She's on leave.
4. A company laptop is an important perk of this job.
5. We need to increase productivity. Workers are getting very lazy.

- a. a benefit, such as money or a car, that you are given because of your job
- b. a period of time when you do not go to work
- c. describe on television, radio, or in a newspaper
- d. how fast a company makes things
- e. the rate at which employees leave a company and are replaced by new people





2

Find the information

You are going to read an article about Sweden's flexible working hours. Guess the answers to the questions below and then read the text to check them.

1. When was the six-hour work day first implemented in Sweden?
 - a. 2 years ago
 - b. 5 years ago
 - c. over 10 years ago
2. How many holiday days do Swedes get every year?
 - a. 15
 - b. 25
 - c. 45
3. How many days of leave do Swedes get after having a baby or adopting a child?
 - a. 120
 - b. 240
 - c. 480
4. How many Swedes work more than 50 hours a week?
 - a. 1 percent
 - b. 6 percent
 - c. 11 percent
5. How many Americans work more than 50 hours a week?
 - a. 1 percent
 - b. 6 percent
 - c. 11 percent





The truth about Sweden's six-hour work day

Only 1 percent of Swedes work more than 50 hours a week

1. In 2015, newspapers reported that Sweden was moving to a six-hour work day.
2. Employers at a Toyota centre in Gothenburg, Sweden's second largest city, said that staff were happier, the company had a lower turnover and profits were higher after it implemented the shorter working hours over 10 years ago.
3. Good results caused a number of other Swedish companies to try cutting hours, and then suddenly, everybody was talking about it on the internet.
4. But Indeed.com, the biggest Swedish job site, revealed that Sweden's six hour day might not be as revolutionary as it sounds. According to the website, there are zero searches for "six-hour workday" or "short work week" in Sweden, and no jobs are actively promoting the short six-hour day in their job adverts.
5. Tara Sinclair, chief economist for Indeed, said the results don't mean Sweden's six-hour workday is myth. "It's more likely a sign that Swedes are already used to a healthy work-life balance. So the topic isn't that shocking to them," Sinclair said.
6. Swedes get 25 holiday days a year and parents can have 480 days of leave after they have a baby or adopt.
7. Only 1 percent of Swedes work more than 50 hours a week, compared to the US average of 11 percent. That means 144 hours less work a year for the average Swede than the average American.
8. Meanwhile, the number of job adverts with "flexible working arrangements" has stayed the same over the past two years, while the number of searches for these terms is actually lower. In the US, the number of searches for flexible working goes up every year. "Flexibility is no longer a new perk but an expected part of any job," Sinclair said.
9. Longer working hours have been linked with heart disease and stroke, according to a medical study.
10. The companies that implemented six hour days last year have not released any results that show the effect on productivity. But psychologists warned that shorter working days could put extra pressure on workers to do more work in less time.
11. "The risk is that people may work more intensively and try to do more work in a shorter period of time. This would increase pressure, not reduce it," said Gail Kinman, a professor of occupational psychology.

Adapted from The Independent, by Hazel Sheffield, 7 January 2016



3 Checking understanding

Answer the questions below.

1. What were the benefits of a shorter work day at Toyota?
2. Why is the six-hour work day not a big deal in Sweden?
3. What is the difference between Sweden and the United States when people are looking for flexible work opportunities on the internet?
4. What are the drawbacks of a longer work day?
5. What are the drawbacks of a shorter work day?

4 Collocations

Match the verbs on the left to the words on the right to form phrases from the text.

- | | |
|---------|---------------------------|
| 1. cut | a. a baby |
| 2. have | b. hours |
| 3. put | c. more work |
| 4. do | d. pressure (on somebody) |
| 5. stay | e. the same |

For each phrase, make up your own sentence.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

5 Talking point

Discuss any of the questions below.

1. Is there a flexible working culture in your country?
2. Would you like to work six hours a day?
3. Do you think this system could work in your country?



6 Grammar - Reporting present statements in the past

There are two ways of saying what another person said in the past – **direct speech** and **reported speech**. Study the table on the next page.

Direct speech	Reported speech
<p>Direct speech repeats the exact words that somebody said or wrote:</p> <p>Newspapers wrote, "Sweden is moving to a six-hour work day."</p> <p>Tara Sinclair said, "The results don't mean Sweden's six-hour workday is myth."</p> <p>Psychologists warned, "Shorter working days can put extra pressure on workers to do more work in less time."</p>	<p>Reported speech reports what somebody said without repeating the exact words:</p> <p>Newspapers reported that Sweden was moving to a six-hour work day.</p> <p>Tara Sinclair said the results don't mean Sweden's six-hour workday is myth.</p> <p>Psychologists warned that shorter working days could put extra pressure on workers to do more work in less time.</p>

Read the rules for forming reported speech and give examples from the table.

1. The tense of the verb in **direct speech** often changes in **reported speech**.

am/is/are -> **was/were** present simple -> **past simple** can -> **could**

.....
.....

2. But it is not necessary to change the tense if the reported situation is still true.

Peter said that he **was** at home. (*Maybe he is still at home now. Maybe he isn't.*)

Peter said he **is** at home. (*He is still at home now.*)

.....
.....

3. After the reporting verb (*said, warned, reported, etc.*), we can use **that** or nothing.

.....
.....



Now look at the following statements from the article. Write 'D' (Direct speech) or 'R' (Reported speech) next to each statement.

- a. It's more likely a sign that Swedes are already used to a healthy work-life balance. So the topic isn't that shocking to them.
- b. Employers at a Toyota centre in Gothenburg said that staff were happier, the company had a lower turnover and profits were higher.
- c. Flexibility is no longer a new perk but an expected part of any job.

Answer the following questions:

- 1. What tense is used in the reported statement above?
- 2. Write what the employers said in direct speech:
Employers at a Toyota centre in Gothenburg said, "Staff
....."

7 Practice

Complete the sentences. Change the tense.

- 1. "We often work overtime." – They told me that they often worked overtime.
- 2. "I can't speak Russian." – She told me that she _____ Russian.
- 3. "It's raining again." – He said it _____ again.
- 4. "Our new office is great." – They said that their new office _____ great.
- 5. "I don't have a lot of work to do." – She said that she _____ a lot of work to do.
- 6. "I'm going to spend time with my family." – He said he _____ time with his family.
- 7. "I don't know where he works." – She said that she _____ where he _____.
- 8. "We can't work flexible hours." – They told me that they _____ flexible hours.