

SLOW DOWN!

Modals & semi modals

A. Listen to the first part of a radio programme. Two journalists are discussing a book named *In Praise of Slow* by Carl Honoré. What's the book about?

B. Listen to the second part of the programme and complete the sentences with the words from the box.

the USA France Japan Germany the UK

1. Some companies _____ give their employees three days off at the weekend.
2. People in _____ spend 15% less time at work now than they did in 1980.
3. In _____ 20% of people work more than 60 hours a week.
4. 60% of people in _____ said they didn't take all their paid holiday.
5. In _____ 20% of people don't take time off when they're ill.
6. In _____ they have a word that means "death from working too hard".

C. Listen to the second part of the programme again and fill in the gaps with one or two words.

1. Rob says he must take more time off _____.
2. Honoré thinks people should only work _____ hours a week.
3. Some French employees are allowed to begin their weekend at _____ on Thursday.
4. Honoré says we ought to spend more time relaxing with _____.
5. People can get their best _____ when they're doing nothing.
6. In some American companies, employees can _____ whenever they want.
7. In the UK people are supposed to have a break every _____.
8. Kim says that lots of people have to take _____.
9. Rob says that we're able to continue working when we're _____.

Kim and Rob are talking after the radio programme. Read their conversation and circle the correct verb forms.

- KIM So, do you think you **should / are allowed to** relax more?
- ROB Absolutely! I **am able to / must** try to slow down a bit.
- KIM **Are you able to / Should you** start work when you want?
- ROB **I'm supposed to / I can** be in the office at eight. What about you?
- KIM I **don't have to / mustn't** be at work until ten.
- ROB Lucky you. **Are you allowed to / Should you** work at home?
- KIM Yes, we **ought to / can** work at home two days a week.
- ROB Oh, we **have to / are able to** be in the office every day.
- KIM Perhaps you **ought to / are supposed to** look for another job.
- ROB Yes, maybe. Anyway, I **have to / can** go. I **mustn't / don't have to** be late for my next meeting. Bye!

Rewrite these sentences with the words in brackets.

- My advice is to ask for a promotion (**should**)
a. You should ask for a promotion _____.
- If I were you, I'd take a week off. (**ought**)
a. _____.
- I can't meet you tonight. (**not be able to**)
a. _____.
- It's against the rules to work at weekends. (**allowed**)
a. _____.
- It isn't necessary to wear a tie. (**not have to**)
a. _____.
- It's necessary to arrive before 9 am. (**must**)
a. _____.
- The company should give us holiday pay (**be supposed to**)
a. _____.
- You aren't allowed to leave before 4 p.m. (**mustn't**)
a. _____.