

# SLOW DOWN!

## Modals & semi modals

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

Listen to the second audio 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".

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 choose 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.

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