

Part A: Match the words to the definitions.

# FREE TIME

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|------------------------------|--|
| 1. <u>burnout</u> (n)        | a. a feeling of being completely exhausted and unable to perform physically or mentally, usually because of working too much |
| 2. <u>productive</u> (adj.)  | b. a way of measuring something, often performance   |
| 3. <u>boundary</u> (n)       | c. completing a lot of tasks   |
| 4. <u>uphold</u> (v)         | d. felt very strongly  |
| 5. <u>accountable</u> (adj.) | e. give someone the space or the ability to do something   |
| 6. <u>metric</u> (n)         | f. give the authority to do something  |
| 7. <u>profound</u> (adj.)    | g. responsible for a task or a decision  |
| 8. <u>empower</u> (v)        | h. support something   |
| 9. <u>accommodate</u> (v)    | i. the limit of what is and isn't acceptable behavior for someone  |

Number the extracts from the introduction in order from 1-8. T

a colleague while on a picnic with your family. We've convinced ourselves that these behaviors are no \_\_\_\_\_

And this is true even of our days off. Maybe you've taken a call at the beach, texted your boss from the grocery store, or emailed \_\_\_\_\_

big deal. It's just one email. But there's a real cost to these interruptions, and there are smart strategies we can all take to better protect our time. \_\_\_\_\_

For so many of us, myself included, our days feel filled with a million small interruptions. **1** \_\_\_\_\_

In one study, researchers recruited parents who were visiting a science museum with their kids. Some \_\_\_\_\_

parents were told to check their phone as much as possible; \_\_\_\_\_

others were told to check their phone as little as possible. After the visit, parents who used their phones reported that the experience was significantly less meaningful. \_\_\_\_\_

These moments seem so small at the time, and yet research suggests they add up to a tremendous loss. The constant creep of work into our personal lives can increase our stress and undermine our happiness. So just what is the cost?

They also felt much lonelier. \_\_\_\_\_



Watch the rest of the video (01:07 - 05:05) and decide which of the following pieces of advice the business person gives. 🌐

1. Spend 15 minutes sitting quietly after work to separate work from your free time. \_\_\_\_
2. Treat your weekend as if it was a vacation. \_\_\_\_
3. Make sure you get some exercise during the workday. \_\_\_\_
4. If you are not available, ask colleagues to only contact you in an emergency. \_\_\_\_
5. If you are able to, move a Monday deadline to a Tuesday afternoon to protect your weekend. \_\_\_\_
6. Create a list of what you need to do the next day before you leave work. \_\_\_\_



Watch the rest of the video again (01:07 - 05:05) and answer the following questions.

What did the experiment with the tourists who visited the church show?

It was easier to communicate the experience to others when tourists had their phones with them. Recalling specific details of the visit was harder for tourists who had access to their phones during that time.

Tourists who used their phones had access to greater amounts of information and therefore enjoyed the experience more.

What example does the speaker give of how work distractions can take away from personal life? she missed her first child's birthday due to working too late.

she texted a client while her first child was performing in a play.

she communicated with a client during an examination while she was pregnant.

How does the speaker suggest we think about the word "rest"?

See it as time to proactively enjoy ourselves rather than just seeing it as dead time.

Look at it as time where you are allowed to do nothing and stay in bed if you need to.

Make it flexible and break it up with periods of work if it helps.

Which of the following suggestions does she make for enjoying yourself?

Get a bike and cycle around your local area like a tourist to rediscover it.  
Walk a long way with no plan in mind and leave your phone at home.  
Book a weekend trip to Paris to see the Eiffel Tower.

What is the second suggestion that the speaker makes?

Try varying your work hours, for example working ten hours one day and five the next.  
Encourage people to go out for lunch once or twice a week to relax.  
Set limits around your work time so that you are able to enjoy time off.

6. What suggestion does the speaker make to help with the second suggestion?

Set aims for your free time with your colleagues and hold each other accountable for them.  
Commit to cooking dinner in the evening for your family and honor that commitment.  
Exercise with your colleagues so that you all feel fit and healthier.

7. What is the final suggestion the speaker makes?

If you feel you're working too much, negotiate for a higher salary to compensate for your time.  
Negotiate for time away from work during the week, such as spending an afternoon having a long lunch with colleagues.

Try asking for more time to deal with your various tasks so that you are less pressured.

8. What did the speaker's data reveal about the way some employees used their time?

Employees who asked for more time did better quality work with fewer issues around stress.  
Employers generally value employees who can quickly and efficiently complete tasks.

Time

In pairs, discuss the meaning of the underlined words and phrases in the following sentences.

1. I think burnout is far more likely in this always-on culture that we live in.
2. I spent too much time working when I was younger and got short-changed on time with my children and my family.
3. A lot of people left the company in the wake of the restructuring and the impact it had on relationships.
4. For people to be able to be productive, I think it's important to reframe how we think about time off.
5. Employees who proactively look for feedback and confirmation do better with some managers than others.
6. My ability to focus has been really fractured lately, and it's affecting my productivity.



management was a key factor in whether employees were promoted or not.