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Level 4 – 7th November, 2019

A 4-day work week in Japan increased productivity

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1911/191107-4-day-work-week-4.html>

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

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1911/191107-4-day-work-week-4.html>

Microsoft trialed a four-day working week in Japan. Workers' productivity and job satisfaction improved. The trial was at the tech giant's Tokyo headquarters. Workers had every Friday off as paid leave in August. Analysts found the shorter working week had several benefits. Productivity rose by 40 per cent and 92 per cent of workers were happy with the trial. It could change Japan's famous workplace practices of long hours and overtime.

The "Work-Life Choice Challenge" aimed, "to create an environment where each employee can choose a diverse and flexible way of working according to [their] circumstances". It included limiting meetings to 30 minutes and asking workers to chat online rather than face-to-face. Microsoft said electricity bills were down by 23 per cent and 59 per cent fewer pages were printed compared with August 2018. Microsoft will repeat the experiment in Japan.

Sources: <https://www.businessinsider.com/microsoft-japan-4-day-workweek-40-percent-increase-in-productivity-2019-11>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/11/04/tech/microsoft-japan-workweek-productivity/>
<https://news.yahoo.com/microsofts-japanese-division-switched-4-123757914.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1911/191107-4-day-work-week-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. productivity and job | a. with the trial |
| 2. the tech giant's Tokyo | b. several benefits |
| 3. every Friday off as | c. overtime |
| 4. the shorter working week had | d. headquarters |
| 5. Productivity rose | e. practices |
| 6. workers were happy | f. paid leave |
| 7. change Japan's famous workplace | g. by 40 per cent |
| 8. long hours and | h. satisfaction |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. each employee can | a. pages were printed |
| 2. a diverse and flexible | b. to 30 minutes |
| 3. according to their | c. the experiment |
| 4. limiting meetings | d. choose |
| 5. chat online rather | e. were down |
| 6. electricity bills | f. circumstances |
| 7. 59 per cent fewer | g. than face-to-face |
| 8. Microsoft will repeat | h. way |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1911/191107-4-day-work-week-4.html>

Microsoft trialed a four-day working (1) _____. Workers' productivity and job satisfaction improved. The trial was at (2) _____ Tokyo headquarters. Workers had every Friday off (3) _____ in August. Analysts found the shorter working week (4) _____. Productivity rose by 40 per cent and 92 per cent of workers were happy (5) _____. It could change Japan's famous workplace practices of long (6) _____.

The "Work-Life Choice Challenge" aimed, "to (7) _____ where each employee can choose a (8) _____ way of working according to [their] circumstances". It (9) _____ to 30 minutes and asking workers to (10) _____ than face-to-face. Microsoft said electricity (11) _____ by 23 per cent and 59 per cent fewer pages were printed compared with August 2018. Microsoft will (12) _____ in Japan.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1911/191107-4-day-work-week-4.html>

Microsoft trialed a four-day working week in Japan. Workers' productivity and job satisfaction improved. The trial was at the tech giant's Tokyo headquarters. Workers had every Friday off as paid leave in August. Analysts found the shorter working week had several benefits. Productivity rose by 40 percent and 92 percent of workers were happy with the trial. It could change Japan's famous workplace practices of long hours and overtime. The "Work-Life Choice Challenge" aimed, "to create an environment where each employee can choose a diverse and flexible way of working according to [their] circumstances". It included limiting meetings to 30 minutes and asking workers to chat online rather than face-to-face. Microsoft said electricity bills were down by 23 percent and 59 percent fewer pages were printed compared with August 2018. Microsoft will repeat the experiment in Japan.

WORKING SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1911/191107-4-day-work-week-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about working 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) _____

