

Vocabulary: work 词汇: 工作

People in the UK work longer hours than anyone else in the European Union but are far from the most **productive**. According to the **Trades Union Congress**, a UK body that brings together 49 member unions to improve their **working conditions**, employees in Denmark are 24% more productive per hour but work four hours fewer per week. 'Britain's **long-hours culture**... is robbing workers of a decent home life and time with their loved ones. **Overwork**, stress and exhaustion have become the new normal,' says TUC General Secretary Frances O'Grady. They want businesses to cut the **standard working week** from five days to four. But would a four-day week work?

It does for Rich Leigh, **founder** of a Gloucester-based PR business. **Staff** there work Monday to Thursday, 9am – 5:30pm, but still get paid the same as before. In an interview with the BBC, Leigh claims it makes the staff happier, which leads to better, more productive work. After a year, **earnings** and **profits** are up and **sick days** have halved.

The 4 Day Week Campaign also believes a shorter week would benefit everyone. They claim that it would, among other things, more evenly distribute work between the overworked and the **underemployed**. They estimate that around 30 UK businesses **operate** a 'four day, same pay' system.

However, not everyone is convinced. One of the UK's leading charities, the Wellcome Trust, conducted an **organisation-wide** consultation into whether a four-day week would fit. They decided against it. 'Many employees worried about their five-day **workloads** being compressed into just four days and some raised concerns that the time and energy used to implement a four-day week would distract the charity from its **core work**,' says Ed Whiting, director of policy at the Trust.

So does a four-day working week work or not? Clearly it suits some... but not everyone. "We've got a lot to do before it can work for different **sectors**," says Emelia Quist from the Federation of Small Businesses in a BBC interview. 'Social care needs people present **24/7**. How can we ensure those **industries** can work a four-day week?' she adds. Until we can answer questions like these, there's clearly more work to be done.

## 词汇表

<b>productive</b>	高效的
<b>trade union</b>	工会
<b>working conditions</b>	工作环境, 劳动条件
<b>long-hours culture</b>	加班文化, 超时工作环境
<b>overwork</b>	工作过度, 劳累过度
<b>standard working week</b>	标准工作周
<b>founder</b>	创始人
<b>staff</b>	员工, 全体雇员
<b>earnings</b>	工资, 薪水
<b>profit</b>	利润
<b>sick days</b>	带薪病假
<b>underemployed</b>	只有部分时间被雇用工作的人
<b>operate</b>	实行
<b>organisation</b>	企业
<b>workload</b>	工作量
<b>core work</b>	核心工作
<b>sector</b>	行业, 领域
<b>24/7</b>	每时每刻地, 一直不休息地
<b>industry</b>	行业, 产业

## 测验与练习

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. True or False? *British workers are the most productive in Europe.*
2. What cost is working long hours taking on UK workers?
3. How has a four-day week benefitted Rich Leigh?
4. Why did the Wellcome Trust not move to a four-day week?
5. What issue does Emelia Quist have with a four-day week?

### 2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I'm afraid I won't have time to play this weekend. I've got a really heavy \_\_\_\_\_ and I may have to work Saturday and Sunday.

working conditions	sector	overwork	workload
--------------------	--------	----------	----------

2. I always join the organisation's \_\_\_\_\_. That way if I feel I'm being treated unfairly, I can ask for help.

trade union	organisation	industry	sector
-------------	--------------	----------	--------

3. I'm definitely an early-bird. I'm much more \_\_\_\_\_ in the mornings than in the afternoons.

underemployed	productive	overworked	operational
---------------	------------	------------	-------------

4. The first thing I noticed about Japan was that the convenience stores were open \_\_\_\_\_! They never closed!

sporadically	from dusk till dawn	24/7	once in a blue moon
--------------	---------------------	------	---------------------

5. I may have been the \_\_\_\_\_ of this company, but you, my son, will make it a huge success in the future.

trade union	organisation	sector	founder
-------------	--------------	--------	---------

## 答案

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. True or False? *British workers are the most productive in Europe.*

**False. Employees in Denmark are 24% more productive than UK workers.**

2. What cost is working long hours taking on UK workers?

**According to the TUC, 'Britain's long-hours culture... is robbing workers of a decent home life and time with their loved ones.'**

3. How has a four-day week benefitted Rich Leigh?

**After a year, earnings and profits are up and sick days have halved.**

4. Why did the Wellcome Trust not move to a four-day week?

**Many employees worried about their five-day workloads being compressed into just four days. They also wondered if it would distract from their core work.**

5. What issue does Emelia Quist have with a four-day week?

**She says that there is a lot to do before it will work for different sectors, for example – social care, which requires people present 24/7.**

### 2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I'm afraid I won't have time to play this weekend. I've got a really heavy **workload** and I may have to work Saturday and Sunday.

2. I always join the organisation's **trade union**. That way if I feel I'm being treated unfairly, I can ask for help.

3. I'm definitely an early-bird. I'm much more **productive** in the mornings than in the afternoons.

4. The first thing I noticed about Japan was that the convenience stores were open **24/7**. They never closed!

5. I may have been the **founder** of this company, but you, my son, will make it a huge success in the future.