

Working habits



1 Talk about the infographic with your partner. Answer the questions.

- 1 What does the infographic tell us about Mexico?
- 2 How many hours a week do Russians work on average?
- 3 Do you find any of these statistics surprising? Why/Why not?
- 4 Do you know how many hours a week people in your country work on average?

2a Read about the different working cultures. Can you guess which countries the speakers are from?

THE COUNTRIES WITH THE MOST ANNUAL WORKING HOURS



	MEXICO	2,237
	SOUTH KOREA	2,163
	RUSSIA	1,980
	POLAND	1,918
	TURKEY	1,832
	UNITED STATES	1,788



WORKING HABITS AROUND THE WORLD

People from other countries think we're very hard-working, that we must be at our desks at seven every morning, that we are obsessed with work, that we don't know how to enjoy ourselves. But

this is all wrong! We actually have more public holidays than anybody else and we love going out at the weekends and having a good time. It's true that we take work seriously, but we're not workaholics at all. I think that's because as a nation we're very productive when we work. We make the best of the time at our desks. And the stereotype that we always have to be busy, or at least look busy, is true to an extent! I work nine to five in an office job, but when I get home I can really relax. I don't have to do overtime and I never take my work home with me.

KISHO



We have a bit of a reputation for perhaps not spending as much time as we should in the workplace, but this really is a stereotype! I think one of the reasons is because we're known for the siesta – that little sleep people say we take in the middle of the day. But I actually don't know anyone who has a siesta. It's nothing but a myth nowadays! It really is advisable to have a siesta in the summer because it's very hot, but people never do during the week because they're too busy working. And did you know we have one of the longest working days that I know of? This is because we start at eight or nine in the morning, take an hour for lunch, and then we work from three or four in the afternoon until about eight o'clock in the evening. These are typical private sector working hours, although there are a lot of civil servants who only work until three o'clock. I wish I could be one of them! I have to work at the weekends sometimes too, and I hate that. My work/life balance could be better, I think!

ANA



2b Read the texts again and write *Kisho* or *Ana*.

- 1 People in my country are able to enjoy themselves, despite what the rest of the world thinks.
- 2 My working day can be very long.
- 3 There are quite a lot of holidays in our work calendar.
- 4 We're known for being a country of efficient workers.
- 5 Sometimes I'd quite like to have a different work schedule!
- 6 I often put in extra hours at work when I need to.
- 7 Our reputation for being so crazy about work – that's just a stereotype!
- 8 People think we have a long break during our working day, but that's not true at all.

2c Read the stereotypes and the facts about working habits in Kisho and Ana's countries. Then write them in the correct place in the table.

- 1 People are serious about their jobs.
- 2 Everyone has a rest in the afternoon.
- 3 There's a high number of public holidays.
- 4 Public sector working hours can be shorter.
- 5 People are obsessive about their work.
- 6 People are expected to do overtime when necessary.
- 7 People should always look busy in the workplace.
- 8 People don't spend enough time in the office.
- 9 A typical working day is up to 12 hours long.
- 10 A typical working day is about eight hours long.

	Kisho's country	Ana's country
Stereotypes	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
Facts	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>

Speaking**3a Work with a partner and discuss the questions.**

- 1 Do you think your country has a very work-orientated society? Why/Why not?
- 2 Do people in your country work hard in general?
- 3 What are the benefits and the dangers of working too hard?

PROJECT**3b You are going to work on a project about the working habits of different countries. Read the questions and prepare your project research.**

- 1 Work in groups. Choose a country and research it on the Internet. Consider the following points:
 - what types of jobs people have in this country
 - where most people work
 - what that country is famous for producing
 - the number of people employed
 - how long people work per week on average
 - whether there is a 'typical' working day
- 2 Find out the same information about your own country.
- 3 Use your notes to make a poster or an infographic comparing the working habits between your chosen country from 1 and your own country.

3c Put your posters or infographics around the classroom. Move around and read the information from the other groups. What similarities and differences are there between countries?