

# Everyday Dialogues: The Four-Day Work Week [B2]

Più tempo da dedicare a se stessi, alla famiglia e agli amici: non si tratta di un'utopia, ma della riduzione dell'orario di lavoro settimanale.



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Oscar: Hello! We always meet by the water cooler! Diana: I know! **How are you keeping?** Are you enjoying the four-day week trial? Oscar: Yes, it's great, isn't it? I feel **kind of guilty, though**. Diana: Why? **It's not like** it'll affect the company's profits. Oscar: But how can that be true? We're working less for the same money! Diana: Because we're more productive! We use our worktime better. Oscar: Yes, I do try to use every minute to **get stuff done**. Diana: Exactly. But it's so great I have more time with my **kids**. And I don't have to waste Saturdays food shopping. Oscar: I guess we'll all be less stressed. **As they say**, a happy workforce is a productive workforce. Diana: That's right. Fewer people **skiving off**, too, now we have more personal time. Oscar: OK, you've convinced me. I've got to get back to work, though. Less time for **chatting** by the water cooler, haha!

## NOW LET'S REVIEW THE VOCABULARY!

**Water coolers** are places where office staff often casually meet to talk and **gossip**. “**How are you keeping?**” is a variation of “How are you?” ‘**Kind of**’ is a casual expression, meaning ‘a little bit’ or ‘**to some extent**’. A **statement** that starts with ‘**It’s not like**’ (or ‘It’s not as if’) indicates that it is not true. ‘**To get stuff done**’ means to complete your **tasks** or responsibilities. ‘Stuff’ is colloquial for ‘things’; in this context, work-related things. ‘**Kids**’ is a colloquial word for ‘children’. Literally, a ‘kid’ is a **baby goat**. ‘**As they say**’ is a phrase used to introduce a proverb or well-known saying. When you don’t go to work or school when you should be there, you are ‘**skiving off**’. ‘**To chat**’ means ‘to talk in an informal way’. ‘Chat’ is also a **noun**, for example, ‘to have a nice chat’.

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# Glossary

- **gossip** = spettegolare
- **to some extent** = fino a un certo punto
- **noun** = sostantivo
- **water cooler** = distributore d'acqua
- **trial** = sperimentazione
- **though** = comunque
- **workforce** = personale
- **statement** = affermazione
- **tasks** = compiti
- **baby goat** = capretto
- **guilty** = colpevole
- **profits** = profitti
- **to waste** = sprecare