

ACTIVITY:

1. Read the text and find the French equivalent of the words in bold letter in the following list.

embaucher / employer – malgré – mince – nuire à/exclure – nécessiter – labeur/travail – couverture/présence – souple – obstiné / tenace – l'état d'esprit – start-up financière valorisée à + d'1 milliard de \$ en bourse – promouvoir – difficile – le manque d'adhésion

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|---------------------------|--|
| a. dogged | <i>obstiné / tenace</i> |
| b. to crowd out | <i>nuire à/exclure</i> |
| c. zeitgeist /'zaitgaist/ | <i>l'état d'esprit</i> |
| d. toil | <i>labeur/travail</i> |
| e. fintech unicorn | <i>start-up financière valorisée à + d'1 milliard de \$ en bourse</i> |
| f. to tout | <i>promouvoir</i> |
| g. tough | <i>difficile</i> |
| h. nimble | <i>souple</i> |
| i. slim | <i>mince</i> |
| j. coverage | <i>Présence / couverture</i> |
| k. require | <i>nécessiter</i> |
| l. hire | <i>embaucher</i> |
| m. despite | <i>malgré</i> |
| n. the lack of traction | <i>Le manque d'adhésion</i> |
| o. ingrained | <i>enraciné</i> |

2. Noun-groups:

- The four-day workweek: la semaine de 4 jours
- Mind-numbing excess: abus abrutissant
- Work-life balance: équilibre entre la vie personnelle et professionnelle
- California-based Bolt: l'entreprise Bolt basée en Californie
- The life-to-work ethos: la philosophie / l'esprit du « vivre pour travailler »

3. Read the text from line 1 to line 47. Take notes (not full sentences) to answer the following questions.

WHO ? WHAT ? WHERE ? WHEN ?

This text, published by the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 2022, deals with a pilot program involving British, American and Canadian companies which have agreed to test the four-day working week. It points out differences in work ethic depending on the country and highlights the fact that the concept is likely to be hampered by the American work ethic, while noting that office workers may benefit from such a change more easily.

4. What information is given on the following time periods?

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| 1800s | 100-hour week over 6 or 7 days a week was the norm for manufacturing |
| 1920s | Henry Ford transitioned his employees from working a six-day week to a five-day week. |
| 1940 | Fair Labor Standards act: 40-hour week |
| 1956 | Vice-President Richard Nixon suggested working time could be reduced |
| 2022 | 4-day work week experimented |

5. Read from line 48 to the end and take notes (not full sentences) to answer the following questions.

- What is it about? **It is about the 4-day workweek vs the culture of busyness.**
- Who is it about? **It is about office workers vs frontline and service workers in the US but also about Henry Ford's revolutionary reduction of worktime.**
- Who could be concerned by this? **Office workers are the ones who are the more likely to benefit from this new organization. 20 percent / A fifth of them could get a shorter workweek.**
- What are the obstacles mentioned? **Any sector where coverage is essential (for instance, restaurants, retail, and hospitals) could find it hard to adapt to it because it entails hiring more workers while it is currently difficult for restaurant owners to find enough employee**

