

Lesson 41

1 TOPIC QUESTION

今日のトピック

Do you think Japanese people work too much?

日本人は働き過ぎだと思いませんか？

2 ARTICLE

記事

Directions: Read the following article aloud.

課題：以下の記事をはっきりとした声で音読しましょう。



Overtime and Holidays

Japan's economy is the third largest in the world. Japanese workers have a reputation for working very hard. They often work overtime without pay and rarely take holidays. Perhaps it is this work ethic that helps make Japan such a successful and prosperous country. But what is the price of this success?

An unfortunate effect of all this hard work is that sometimes people will work themselves into an early grave. There is even a word for this in Japan, 'karoshi.' In one case, the Japanese government provided compensation to the wife and family of a man who died from overworking. The government has tried to introduce new regulations to limit overtime but they have little effect.

Perhaps the answer to this problem is for big companies to change the way they work and for the government to enforce new regulations. Everyone wants to work hard to support their family and enjoy their life but it is important to find a balance between work and free time so you can stay healthy at home and at work.

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3 VOCABULARY

語い

Directions: First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

課題: 先生の後が続いてくり返した後、今度はひとりで発音してみましょう。

reputation 評判

unfortunate 残念な

unpaid 無報酬の

compensation 賠償金

ethic 倫理的価値観

regulations 法令

prosperous 豊かな

4 QUESTIONS

質問

Directions: Read the questions aloud and answer them.

課題: 質問を声に出して読んだ後、答えてみましょう。

1. What are the disadvantages of overtime?
2. How did the government help one family?
3. What is the answer to the problem of overworking?
4. How can you balance your work life and free time?