

In many parts of the world, however, people continue to work much longer hours. In many Asian and Latin American countries, many people work more than 45 hours per week. (See Figure 8.1.) They also get less time off from work. Workers in many western European countries get more than 30 days off every year. In contrast, North American, South American, and Asian workers have fewer days off. In general, the pattern around the world has been similar: Both work hours per week and the number of weeks worked per year have decreased in the last 50 years. However, there is still significant variation in the number of work hours across different regions of the world.

As people moved from farms to cities to work in factories, at first the number of hours people worked went up. However, as a country's economy develops, average working hours start to decrease. As a result, by the middle of the twentieth century, the eight-hour workday and the five-day workweek became typical in most western countries. Today, the average workweek in most countries of western Europe is about 35 hours.

Western countries were changing to spend their time and money. Transportation was continuing to improve, so people could get around more **easily**. Streetcars could take people into the city for entertainment. In the cities, there were new public parks and gardens. Workers could go out with their families to the city for games, picnics, and concerts. The first movies and professional baseball games appeared at this time. They were both very popular. There were also trains so that people could get away from the city and spend the day in the country or at the beach.

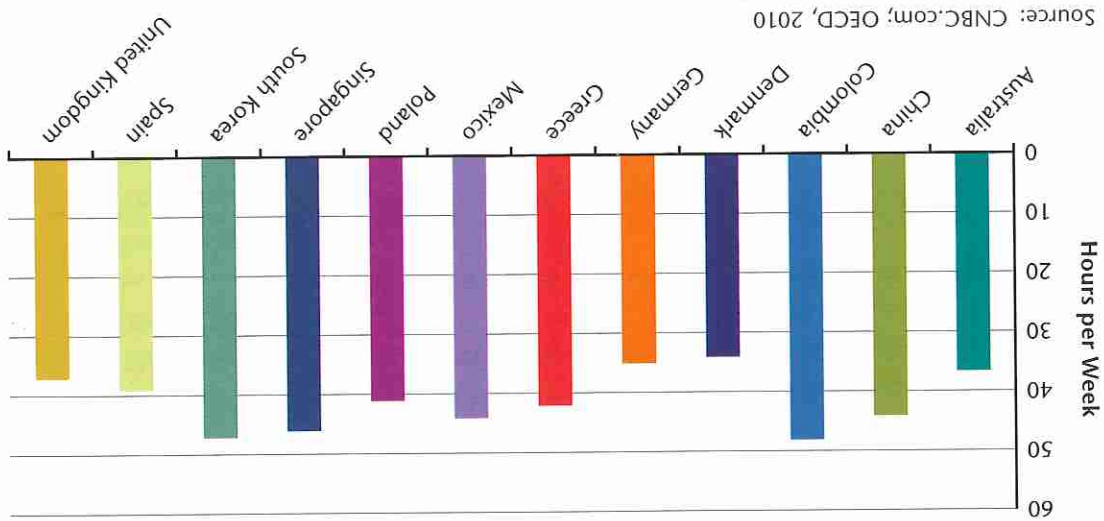


Figure 8.1 Number of Work Hours Per Week

What is the main idea of paragraph 6? Highlight it.

WHILE YOU READ 4

Look back in this sentence for a phrasal verb. Highlight it.

WHILE YOU READ 3