

COMMUNICATION CUES

Sample newspaper article

FAST RETAILING TO OFFER 4-DAY WORKWEEK

ファーストリテイリングは、多様な働き方を推進する目的で、カジュアル衣料品店「ユニクロ」の従業員が週に3日休むことのできる新制度を10月から導入すると、同社筋が8月20日に発表した。週4日勤務の構想は、子育てや介護に時間を使いたい社員のために作られた。企業側も優秀な人材をつなぎとめるねらいがある。日本国内のユニクロ約840店舗で働くファーストリテイリングの全従業員5万人中、約1万人の正社員がこのプログラムに申し込むことができる。資格のある社員は同額の賃金が得られるように、1日8時間ではなく10時間勤務を選ぶことができる。原則的には、店が忙しい土日と祝祭日は働くことになる。

(Aug. 21)

Words and phrases

多様な (*tayō*-) diverse; 働き方 (*hatara-kata*) work styles; 推進する (*suishin*-) promote; 目的 (*mokuteki*) aims; カジュアル衣料品店 (*kajuaru iryōhinten*) casual clothing stores; 従業員 (*jūgyōin*) employees; 週に3日休む (*shū-mikka-yasu*-) take three days off a week; 新制度 (*shin-seido*) new system; 導入する (*dōnyū*-) introduce; 同社筋 (*dōshasuji*) company sources; 発表した (*happyō*-) announced; 週4日勤務 (*shū-yokka-kinmu*) four-day workweek; 構想 (*kōsō*) initiative; 子育て (*kosoda*-) child-rearing; 介護 (*kaigo*) nursing care; 時間 (*jikan*) time; 使う (*tsuka*-) spend; ために作られた (*-tsuku*-) is designed for; 優秀な人材 (*yūshū-jinzai*) qualified employees; つなぎとめる keep on its payroll; 店舗 (*tenpo*) stores; 正社員 (*seishain*) full-time employees; 申し込む (*mō-ko*-) apply; 資格のある (*shikaku*-) eligible; 同額の (*dōgaku*-) the same amount; 賃金 (*chingin*) pay; 得られる (*e*-) get; 選ぶ (*era*-) choose; 原則的には (*gensokuteki*-) in principle; 店 (*mise*) stores; 忙しい (*isoga*-) busy; 土日 (*donichi*) Saturdays and Sundays; 祝祭日 (*shukusaijitsu*) public holidays

Sample radio or television report

Fāsuto Ritairingu-wa, tayō-na hatarakikata-o suishin-suru mokuteki-de, kajuaru iryōhinten 'Yunikuro'-no jūgyōin-ga shū-ni mikka-yasumu-koto-ga dekiru shin-seido-o 10-gatsu-kara dōnyū-suru-to dōshasuji-ga 8-gatsu hatsuka-ni happyō-shimashita. Shū-yokka kinmu-no kōsō-wa, kosodate-ya kaigo-ni jikan-o tsukaitai shain-no-tame-ni tsukurare-mashita. Kigyō-gawa-mo yūshū-na jinzai-o tsunagitomeru nerai-ga arimasu. Nihon kokunai-no Yunikuro yaku happyaku yonjū tenpo-de hataraku Fāsuto Ritairingu-no zen-jūgyōin go-man-nin-chū, yaku ichi-man-nin-no seishain-ga kono puroguramu-ni mōshikomu-koto-ga dekimasu. Shikaku-no aru shain-wa dōgaku-no chingin-ga erareru-yō-ni, ichinichi hachi-jikan-de-wa naku jū-jikan kinmu-o erabu-koto-ga dekimasu. Gensokuteki-ni-wa, mise-ga isogashii donichi-to shukusaijitsu-wa hataraku-koto-ni narimasu.

Translation

Fast Retailing Co. will introduce a new system in October to allow employees at its Uniqlo casual clothing stores to take three days off a week, as it aims to promote diverse work styles, company sources said Aug. 20. The four-day workweek initiative is designed to enable workers to spend time on child-rearing and nursing care, and help the clothing giant keep qualified employees on its payroll. Around 10,000 full-time employees of Fast Retailing's workforce of 50,000 at around 840 Uniqlo stores in Japan can apply for the program. Eligible employees can choose to work 10 hours rather than eight a day, so they can earn the same amount of pay, and they will also work on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays in principle, when stores are busy.

Conversation between acquaintances

- A: *Yunikuro-wa 10-gatsu-kara shūkyū-mikka-no shin-seido-o dōnyū-suru-sō-desu-yo.*
(I heard that Uniqlo will introduce a new system in October to allow its employees to take three days off a week.)
- B: *Tayō-na hatarakikata-o suishin-suru mokuteki-da sō-desu.*
(Apparently, the company aims to promote diverse ways of working.)

Conversation between a husband and wife

- H: *Shū-yokka kinmu-de-wa ichinichi jū-jikan hataraku-sō-da.*
(Under the four-day workweek system, employees have to work 10 hours a day.)
- W: *Sore-mo taihen-sō-ne.*
(That sounds tough.)