How many hours can you work?

Reading + Grammar: *have to / don't have to / can / can't*

1 KEY VOCABULARY

average	*n. / adj.*	promedio
employer	*n.*	empleador
employee	*n.*	empleado
law	*n.*	ley
opt out	*v.*	optar por no participar, renunciar
overtime	*n.*	horas extra
limit	*n.*	límite
record	*n.*	registro
exception	*n.*	excepción
advice	*n. (uncountable)*	consejo, asesoría

2 USEFUL PHRASES & EXPRESSIONS

- **You can't work more than 48 hours a week.** → *No puedes trabajar más de 48 horas a la semana.*
- **You don't have to opt out.** → *No tienes que renunciar (al límite).*
- **Your employer has to keep records.** → *Tu empleador tiene que llevar registros.*
- **It's your choice.** → *Es tu decisión.*
- **Do you work overtime?** → *¿Trabajas horas extra?*
- **on average** → *en promedio*

6 EVERYDAY LIFE INSIGHT

★ **Know your working rights**

Working-hour rules are different in each country. In the UK, the average limit is 48 hours a week, but workers can choose to opt out. Knowing the rules in your country helps you plan a healthy work-life balance.

3 THE KEY POINT

have to = it is necessary · **don't have to** = it is not necessary (you can choose) · **can** = it is allowed · **can't** = it is not allowed.

Your employer **has to** keep some records about working hours.
You **don't have to** work overtime. It's your choice.
If you're under 18, you **can't** work more than 8 hours a day.

4 QUICK PRACTICE

Complete with has to, don't have to, can or can't.

1. Workers ____ choose to work more than 48 hours.
2. My boss ____ check my hours.
3. You ____ work at weekends — it's optional.
4. Under-18s ____ work more than 40 hours a week.

5 ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Answers: 1 can · 2 has to · 3 don't have to · 4 can't

Can = it's allowed (a choice). **Has to** = it's necessary (he / she / it → has). **Don't have to** ≠ *can't*: it means it's not necessary, but it's allowed.

Today's resource: Maximum weekly working hours (GOV.UK) · https://www.gov.uk/maximum-weekly-working-hours

> *Working hard is good — working smart and resting well is better.*



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