

Socializing 11:

Making a Balance between Business and Private

Practice 1 | Useful Expressions

Directions: Listen and repeat.

- **party** - (verb, informal) go to a party, hold a party
- **beauty** - beautiful girl
- **top it all off** - the worst/best thing is
- **loosen up** - to relax
- **have a point** - to make a good, valid argument
- **counter** - to do something to reduce or prevent the bad effects of something
- **incorrigible** - having bad habits that cannot be changed or improved
- **balance A with/and B** - to give equal importance to two contrasting things or parts of something

Practice 2 | Dialogue

Directions: Read the dialogue aloud with your teacher.

Kenneth and Jamie are talking about how they each balance their work with their personal life.

Kenneth : Hi, Jamie. How are you? You look a bit tired. Did you have a long night?

Jamie : Hey, Kenneth. Yes I did. **Partied** with a **beauty** at the disco until 5 A.M.

Kenneth : Should you be doing that on Sunday night?

Jamie : Kenneth, I work 12 hours a day from Monday to Friday. **To top it all off**, it's a stressful job too. I need to **loosen up**.

Kenneth : And how much loosening up do you do?

Jamie : I focus on work during the week and then Saturday and Sunday come relaxing and partying.

Kenneth : I suppose you **have a point** in your own way.

Jamie : What do you do to **counter** all this work, Kenneth?

Kenneth : Just like you, I focus on work during the week. Then Friday evening I usually take a nice, long, hot bath. Saturday I might read sitting on the porch. And Saturday night and Sunday I spend with my wife and kids doing various things.

Jamie : It's nice that you make time for your family. I don't have one yet.

Kenneth : Yes, I don't want to neglect my family. I also try to talk a bit with my kids during the week too. Discuss any problems and questions they may have.

Jamie : Maybe when I will have a family I will do the same as you. Until then, let the party continue.

Kenneth : You're **incorrigible**.

Check your understanding: Answer the following questions.

1. Why is Jamie tired?
2. How does Jamie balance his personal life with work?
3. How does Kenneth balance his personal life with work?

Practice 3 | Role-Play

Directions: Have a role-play with your teacher in the following situation.

Situation

Your co-worker seems to be working too much, you are curious and worried that he may be exhausting himself so you are asking about the way he balances his social life with work.

Expressions:

- What do you do to loosen up?
- What do you do in your leisure time?
- How do you refresh yourself?
- Aren't you overdoing it?
- To top it all of, ...
- Counter the stress
- Have a point

Practice 4 | Discussion

Directions: Discuss these topics and exchange thoughts with your teacher.

1. How do you balance work and private life?
2. Do you think one (work or private life) is more important than the other?
3. What do you do during your private time for leisure?
4. Do you prefer spending your free time alone or with someone?
5. Do you look forward to Monday (when work starts) or Friday (the week-end)?