



The underground economy

W: Sarah, I wanted to ask you a question for a while...

Sarah: Yes, go ahead!

W: The job you have at the restaurant, is it declared or are you a moonlighter?

Sarah: I am declared. Why?

W: I was wondering. Moonlighting has become something of a national pastime in many countries, and I was curious to know how it was in France. In London, my brother in law has many ways of making a little bit of money on the side.

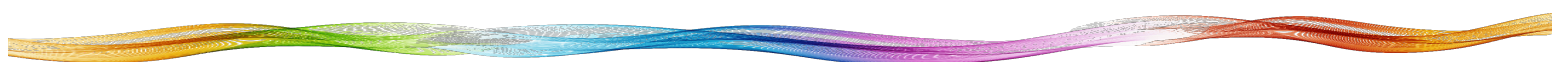
Sarah: Well my father used to do a bit of gardening as a sideline as well. It's quite common in France where high taxes and strict regulations help drive people into the underground economy.

W: In Italy, the black economy accounts for perhaps twenty five per cent of the country's gross national product.

Sarah: In France, no one knows precisely how large the underground economy has now become, but it's growing by the day. Anyway, I think in most countries there is a thriving black market. I read that to some people, the strength of the underground economy gives a much-needed boost to employment, and that without it there would be many more unemployed people.

W: Well to governments, the black economy represents a loss of billions of euros in tax revenues, and law-abiding firms are burdened with social charges that the firms employing underground workers evade.

Sarah: I know. But French tax inspectors have decided to crack down on illegal work in the building and public work sectors and in the catering trade.





GLOSSARY:

The underground economy	A sideline
To ask	High-taxes
To be declared	Strict regulations
To wonder	The black economy
To make money on the side	the country's gross national product
To become	a thriving black market
To drive	The strength
To account	a much-needed boost
To grow	Employment
To represent	A loss
To be burdened	Billions
To employ	Tax revenues
To evade	Law-abiding
To crack down	Firms
A while: un moment	Social charges
A moonlighter: un travailleur au noir	Underground workers
Moonlighting : le travail au noir	Tax inspectors
A national pastime	Illegal work
Brother in law	The building and public work sectors
Many ways	Catering trade
Gardening	

Curious	
A little bit of	
Quite common	
Precisely	
By the day	



HYPNO**LANGUAGE**
Learn english faster & easier

