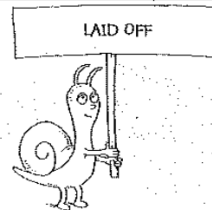


## Q2.6 Furlough



**Furlough** comes to English from a Dutch word that means “permission.” Most commonly, a *furlough* is a temporary military leave, but it can also be used to describe the situation of workers who have been temporarily laid off. For example, a company or government agency with financial difficulties may *furlough* workers for a few days each month until the situation improves.

**“Sir,” said Mrs. Meade indignantly.**

**“There are no deserters in the Confederate army.”**

**“I beg your pardon,” said Rhett with mock humility. “I meant those thousands on furlough who forgot to rejoin their regiments and those who have been over their wounds for six months but who remain at home, going about their usual business or doing the spring plowing.”**

—*Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell