# Restructuring





#### This week...

The company Fiona and Max work for is undergoing some restructuring to become more efficient. They discuss what this means and what will happen.

## Lesson Objectives...

- Restructuring
- Discussing concerns

### **Business English Conversation**

**Advanced Class** 

### Warm Up - Topic Question

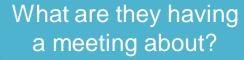




What are the risks of restructuring?

## **Picture Description**











What are those two men writing down?



Max

**Fiona** 

Max



FINNA	Hey, Max. I don't know if you've heard any of the rumors, but a reliable
	source told me there's going to be some restructuring soon.

Max What exactly does that mean for the company?

**Fiona** Well, it means that a lot of the company's processes, departments and operations may change.

Sounds a bit concerning. Is there any chance you and I will lose our jobs?

I don't think so. I mean, it's possible that some people will be made redundant, but our department should be safe.

Why is the company restructuring?

Fiona

Don't tell anyone I said this, but our profits have been falling significantly. Restructuring should make us more efficient again.

Max
I suppose as long as it's in the best interests of the company, then we will have to make it work.

Advanced Class

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### **Sentence Building**



I don't know if you've heard, but I am moving to head office next month.

- 1. I don't know if you've heard, but ......
- 2. Well, it means that ......
- 3. It's possible that ......
- 4. Don't tell anyone I said this, but ......



#### Role Play - Restructuring



Student A is worried about a big restructure that is about to happen. Student B addresses his/her concerns.



Student A: Tell Student B about your Concerns for the upcoming restructure.

Student B: Address Student A's concerns.

#### **Key Phrases**

- I'm worried that the company will ....
- What will happen if we have to ....?
- Do you think that the company will ....?
- Do you think we will lose our jobs?
- I think our jobs will be safe.
- Even if the company decides to .... we should be alright.
- That's a valid concern.
- It's for the best, since we will become more efficient.
- Other

#### **Concerns**

- outsource jobs
- merge departments
- sell assets
- lay off staff
- cut pay
- move premises
- other

### **Agree or Disagree**





- Employees' jobs should be the priority when restructuring.
- 2. Companies should never outsource jobs to cut costs.
- 3. Staff should be told if the company is failing.

### **Discussion**



- How can a business cut costs without cutting jobs?
- Can you think of any major Japanese companies that have restructured?
- Has your company ever restructured?

#### **Word Index**



assets - We won't be selling off any assets.

best interest - It's in his best interest to speak to the CEO.

efficient - It's not a very efficient use of our time.

lay off - We hope not to lay off any employees.

outsource - They are outsourcing operations to China.

possible - I'm sure it won't be possible.

profits - Profits have been dwindling this year.

restructure - If we restructure now, we won't go under.