



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 they having a meeting about?



B



A



What are those two men writing down?

Fiona	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.
Max	Sounds a bit concerning. Is there any chance you and I will lose our jobs?
Fiona	I don't think so. I mean, it's possible that some people will be made redundant, but our department should be safe.
Max	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.

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



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



1. 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.

- 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?

- 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.*