



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

Basic 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?

*Create a short story using the following format

- 1. Who
- 2. Where
- 3. When
- 4. What's happening?

*Create simple sentences using the vocabulary

1. **restructure**

2. **possible**

3. **profits**

4. **efficient**

I think our company is planning to **restructure**.



1. **I don't know if you have heard, but** our departments are going to merge.
2. **It means that** we have to rethink our strategy.
3. **That sounds** like a huge challenge.
4. **It is possible that** I calculated it incorrectly.

Skit

- Words
- Phrases

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Fiona | Hey, Max. I don't know if you have heard, but the company is going to restructure soon. |
| Max | What exactly does that mean? |
| Fiona | It means that a lot of the company's processes, departments and operations may change. |
| Max | That sounds worrying. Will you or I lose our jobs? |
| Fiona | I don't think so. It is possible that some people will lose their jobs, but not in our department. |
| Max | Why is the company restructuring? |
| Fiona | Our profits have been falling. Restructuring should make us more efficient again. |
| Max | I guess as long as it's in the best interests of the company, then it's OK. |

1. I don't know if you have heard, but
2. It means that
3. That sounds
4. It is possible that

Responses - Prepositions

*please select the most appropriate response for each item below:

1. A: What will happen our jobs?
B: I think our jobs will be safe.

about / for / to

2. A: Did you hear that they are selling the company?
B: Wow, I didn't hear that.

about / on / with

3. A: Do you think this is good for the future of our company?
B: I don't think there's anything wrong the situation.

at / with / on

4. A: I have some good news you.
B: I could do with some good news!

to / of / for

5. A: What will we do the pension plan?
B: We will have to rethink our approach to that.

of / about / at

6. A: Can we discuss it the next meeting?
B: OK. We'll talk about it then.

with / on / at

Role Play – Restructuring

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



Student A: I'm really worried about the upcoming restructure.

Student B: What are you concerned about?

*Continue the conversation using the **Key Phrases** and **Concerns** from below.

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.
- I understand your concern.
- I think it's in the best interest of the company.
- *Other*

Concerns

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

- How can a business cut costs without cutting jobs?
- Can you think of any major Japanese companies that have 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 will have to **lay off** some staff.*
- outsource - *They are **outsourcing** operations to China.*
- possible - *I don't think it will be **possible**.*
- profits - ***Profits** have been down this year.*
- restructure - *The company is going to **restructure**.*