



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

Super Class

Warm Up – Topic Question



What are the risks of restructuring?

Picture Description

What are they having a meeting about?



B



A



Fiona	Hey, Max. I don't know if you've heard any of the rumors, but I have it on good authority that 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 drastically.
Max	Sounds a bit disconcerting. Is there any chance you and I will be laid off ?
Fiona	I shouldn't think so. I mean, there's a likelihood that some people will be made redundant , but our department should be safe.
Max	Why is the company choosing to restructure now?
Fiona	You didn't hear this from me , but our profits have been taking a battering recently. A comprehensive restructure should make us more streamlined.
Max	I suppose as long as it's in the best interests of the company, then we will have to do what we can to make it work.

Role Play – Restructuring



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



Talk about one of the following topics for one minute:

1. The ethics of making employees redundant.
2. Outsourcing jobs to cut costs.
3. Selling a company's assets to stay afloat.

*Other students in the class, ask one question each to the presenter after the speech

- 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?

We should **explore all avenues** before making a decision.



explore all avenues – try out every possibility in order to obtain a result or find a solution

- We won't outsource any jobs until we've **explored all avenues**.

get one's ducks in a row – get (or have) everything organized

- We need to **get all our ducks in a row** by the time the accountants arrive.

half the battle – an important step towards achieving something

- We're not making a loss anymore. That's **half the battle!**