

ADVANCED

Directions: First of all, watch once or twice the video you have downloaded. Then try to answer the activity below. Finally check the video transcription and the correct answers.

2 - Downsizing

Activity

1. What does CEO stand for in this context?
 - Civil Engineer Operator.
 - Chief Executive Officer.
 - Corporate Entrepreneur Organizer.
2. What is the company's plan?
 - To trim staff by 18 per cent in 20 months
 - To reduce staff by 20 per cent in 18 months.
 - To train production staff with 20 years of service.
3. What does "early retirement" mean?
 - re-location to another area of the company
 - non-renewal of short-term contracts
 - end of employment before the legally stipulated age
4. "Downsizing" means ...
 - reducing the number of staff in a company
 - negotiating a dismissal with the CEO of the company
 - increasing the number of workers in a company
5. Who is usually in charge of this kind of negotiations?
 - the CEO of the company.
 - the Personnel manager.
 - the Unions.
6. What will happen to the company work force, according to John?
 - They will be left with staff under 10 years of service.
 - They will be left with untrained middle-aged people.
 - They will be left with untrainable 50-year olds.

Video transcription

TED: John, the new CEO will be addressing the staff next week, and it isn't good news.

JOHN: More reductions?

TED: I'm afraid so. The plan is to trim present levels of staffing by 20% over the next 18 months.

JOHN: Early retirement? Re-location? Non-renewal of short-term contracts?

TED: All that and more. The CEO is prepared to release production staff with under ten years of service.

JOHN: And who will be negotiating that with the Unions, might I ask?

TED: As Personnel Manager, it will be in your hands, with our full backing, of course.

JOHN: So much for our plans to upgrade the work force! We'll be left with untrained youngsters and well-nigh untrainable fifty-year olds.

Answers Activity

1. What does CEO stand for in this context?
 Chief Executive Officer.
2. What is the company's plan?
 To reduce staff by 20 per cent in 18 months.
3. What does "early retirement" mean?
 end of employment before the legally stipulated age
4. "Downsizing" means ...
 reducing the number of staff in a company
5. Who is usually in charge of this kind of negotiations?
 the Personnel manager.
6. What will happen to the company work force, according to John?
 They will be left with untrainable 50-year olds.

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