



Unit 3

Problems At Work

News

a. Do you remember the news report about the steel plant strike? Mark the following statements true (✓) or false (✗).

1. The steel workers and technicians intend to walk out of their jobs next week.
2. The workers are striking because their wages haven't been increased.
3. The workers have gone on strike in the past.
4. Experts believe it is still possible to save the steel plant.
5. All negotiations have stopped.
6. In the past, the company always kept its promises.
7. The workers are optimistic of a last minute settlement.
8. Solid Steel may have to close down.



b. Read the following statements. Mark whether the workers or the management of Solid Steel made them.

	Workers	Management
1. "We tried to listen to their demands but they are determined to quit their jobs."		✓
2. "We told them that we refuse to keep working without getting a raise in pay."	✓	
3. "They keep accusing us of threatening them, but all we want is to be taken seriously."	✓	
4. "We were prepared to give them some incentives, but they weren't prepared to listen."		✓
5. "We thought that another strike wouldn't be effective. We decided to take a more dramatic stand."	✓	

c. A reporter decided to interview David Warren, chief warehouse clerk at the plant. Complete the radio interview with the phrases below.

accept incentives • call for a strike • close down
continue with negotiations • increase in wages • throughout the world
walk out of

- Reporter: Is it true that your men plan to (1) walk out of their jobs if their demands aren't met?
- David Warren: Definitely. Our workers have had no (2) increase in wages for the last five years. If negotiations fail then the company will have to (3) close down.
- Reporter: Why didn't you (4) call for a strike as in the past?
- David Warren: The last one didn't help. We believe that the management needs to act now. After all, they have the money. Solid Steel is the largest steel plant in the area and its products are well known (5) throughout the world.
- Reporter: In other words, Mr. Warren, are you saying there's little hope in reaching a settlement?
- David Warren: Quite honestly, my men won't (6) accept incentives to go back to work. They also do not want to (7) continue with negotiations.
- Reporter: Well, thank you for the interview, Mr. Warren. It seems that it may indeed be too late to save Solid Steel Corporation.

- d. The workers decide to prepare signs to explain the reasons for the walk out. Write the text for the signs. Share your slogans with the class.



Fifty Days and Counting

a. Do you remember the text "Fifty Days and Counting"? Circle the correct answers to the following questions.

1. What caused the walkout at Flemming Steel?
(*bad working conditions* / a cut in wages / the strike)
2. Who did Chuck Roste blame for the difficult situation?
(*the foreign competition* / the workers / the management)
3. Who did the workers blame?
(*the management* / their wives / foreign competition)
4. What has so far prevented the plant from closing?
(*the workers' wives* / the management / both the workers and the management)
5. Why is the title of the story "Fifty Days and Counting?"
(*The strike will only last fifty days.* / *The strike started fifty days ago and no one knows when it will end.* / *The strike is fifty years old.*)

b. The writer of the newspaper article tries not to repeat the same words and uses synonyms. Find the synonyms in the text for:

1. a walkout _____
2. a cut in wages _____
3. shut down _____
4. workers _____
5. closing its doors _____

c. Complete the following sentences.

1. If the management (1) _____ (*be aware*) of the strength of the competition, we (2) _____ (*be*) in the plant now.
2. If it (3) _____ (*not be*) for the plant, many people (4) _____ (*not be able*) to make a living.
3. If it (5) _____ (*not be*) for the loyalty of the workers, the plant (6) _____ (*not survive*) as long as it has.

d. Read a dialogue between some of the wives of the strikers. Complete the dialogue with the words and phrases below.

cut in wages • financial difficulties • loyalty • make a living • plant
predicted • quit • solution • under the circumstances
unproductive

- Nina: We can't allow the plant to close. How else will our husbands be able to
(1) _____?
- Debra: I disagree. Our husbands can't work on such low wages. They already took a
(2) _____. How can we manage on so little money? For the last
few years, we all knew the plant has suffered (3) _____.
No wonder my husband is ready to (4) _____; he feels the plant has
no future.
- Fiona: I blame the management. They should have (5) _____ that foreign
competition would be harmful.
- Nina: I agree. The management doesn't appreciate our husbands' (6) _____.
The (7) _____ wouldn't have lasted this long without their good will.
- Fiona: But what about a (8) _____ to the problem? All the negotiations
have been (9) _____.
- Debra: I suggest we join the strike. I think we could make a difference if we stand alongside
our men.
- Nina: Brilliant idea! The radio and television will love it! I can see the headlines, "Women
support striking husbands!" (10) _____ there's no other choice!

e. Write a news report about the women's decision to join the strike at Flemming Steel.

Remember to include:

- *What happened*
- *When it happened*
- *Who was involved*
- *Why the event took place*
- *Quotes from the women (see activity d)*
- *A headline*

f. Share your news report with the class.

Quitting

a. Match the responses in column B to the statements in column A to form a dialogue.

A	B
1. Are you thinking of quitting? _____	a. You were wrong.
2. I've heard you were planning to leave. _____	b. Don't be.
3. I'm thinking of quitting, myself. _____	c. Why do you ask?
4. I'm sorry to hear that. _____	d. You're kidding.

b. Express your intentions about the following situations:

1. You feel that you are not getting enough attention from your teacher.

sleep/ walk out of the class.

2. Your boss asks you to work an hour longer every day without extra pay .

OK Boss, I'm out "period".

3. You win a million dollars in the lottery.

I will travel all around the world.

4. The company you work at closes.

A bit sad but ok.

I'm thinking of quitting.
I'm planning to quit.

- c. Look at the pictures of the people in unhappy situations at work. What do you think the people intend to do? Write a sentence for each picture using an expression of intention (*thinking of, planning to*)



I'm thinking of quitting.

I'm planning to quit.



I'm thinking of calling for a strike.

I'm planning to call for a strike.

3.

A cartoon illustration of a group of people sitting at a table in a breakroom. They all look bored or tired. One man is sitting in a large armchair, looking at a clock. A speech bubble from him says "They're wasting time. Why do they take such long coffee breaks?"

I'm thinking of telling them please get back to work.

- d. Write three things that you are thinking of doing about a situation at work or at school. Use expressions such as: *I'm thinking of...*, *I'm planning to...*, *I intend to...*. Share your sentences with a partner in class.

More Relative Clauses: Non-Restrictive

a. Put commas around the non-restrictive relative clauses.

1. Flemming Steel which is located in Hamilton is the largest steel company in the country.
2. David Warren who is chief warehouse clerk at the plant supported the workers' demands.
3. The workers who are still striking had already had a decrease in salary.
4. Foreign competition which was the cause of the company's financial difficulties was the reason behind the pay cut.
5. Hank Wiskowski who represents the employees believes that the management should have seen the problem.

b. Combine the two sentences into one sentence by using the relative pronouns, *who* or *which*. Read the sentence to a partner.

1. Mrs. Smith went on strike with her husband. She is one of the worker's wives.

2. Solid Steel is the largest plant in our region. It is going to close down tomorrow.

3. Hank Wiskowski disagrees with the management. He represents the employees.

4. The workers are still striking. They went on strike fifty days ago.

5. Incentives were rejected by the workers. They were offered by the management.

c. Complete the sentences using an appropriate relative clause. Share your sentences with the class.

1. My boss, _____, is very successful.
2. The dress shop, _____, is now importing clothes from the Far East.
3. My colleague, _____, has decided to quit.
4. The management, _____, has refused to negotiate with us.
5. The products, _____, have become too expensive.