

Business English- Moral Dilemmas Conditionals Practice

Choose a situation from below and make a moral dilemma question out of it like “If someone asked you for a job for their child, would you criticise them for asking?” Most of the situations are imaginary and so should be second conditional questions with “would”, but if they are realistic or likely for your partner, please use first conditional with “will”. You will usually need to add a subject, and maybe other words such as “can” or “could”, to make a full conditional question. Before your partner answers, tick in the column below that you imagine their reaction will be. After they answer, say if your prediction was correct.

Situation	Reaction		
	Yes	No	May be
ask you for a job for their child			
suggest promoting someone because they are from an underrepresented group (e.g. an ethnic minority)			
suggest a policy which is good for the company but bad for the local community			
offer you a job for less cash in a more socially responsible company			
hear about a legal way of paying less tax			
hear about an illegal way of paying less tax			
learn that your company is doing something illegal			
a director gets involved in a personal scandal			
learn some gossip about a rival			
learn about a takeover before shareholders do			
meet two of your main rivals at a social event			
have a 97% market share			
receive an expensive watch from a potential supplier			
receive some smoked salmon from a supplier			
have a very attractive PA			
make your staff work harder by shouting at them			
learn that your boss is having an affair			
cut costs by not cleaning water before it goes into a river			
make cash by selling what a company owns and closing it			
hide losses by moving money around the company			
set up in a country where many children work instead of going to school			
customers say they will stop buying until you change			
difficult to tell if people are in this country legally			
suppliers in a developing country make almost no profit			
decide the CEO's pay and bonuses			

spend company money on good causes			
a supplier really relies on you doing business with them			
make staff do unpaid overtime			
customers believe anything you say about your products			
a future law affects your business			
a decision hurts quarterly profit but comes good in two years			



Try to think of a moral dilemma for each topic below (from above or your own ideas).

- accounting scandals/ creative accountancy
- asset stripping
- backstabbing
- blackmail
- bribery
- bullying
- child labour
- collusion/ price fixing
- community involvement/ being a good neighbour/ stakeholders approach
- consumer boycotts/ consumer campaigns
- cover-up
- damage to the environment/ pollution
- diversity policies/ positive discrimination
- employing illegal immigrants
- excessive management compensation
- fair trade products
- gift giving
- giving to charities
- inaccurate product descriptions/ false claims
- insider trading
- lobbying politicians
- monopolistic practices/ profiteering
- nepotism
- only focusing on short-term profits
- PR
- sexual harassment
- slander/ libel
- social enterprises
- tax avoidance
- tax evasion
- whistleblowing

Ask about any words above which you couldn't understand or couldn't make conditional sentences about.

Some of the phrases above are a little different from each other. What are the differences in these cases?

- accounting scandals/ creative accountancy
- collusion/ price fixing
- community involvement/ stakeholders approach
- consumer boycotts/ consumer campaigns
- damage to the environment/ pollution
- diversity policies/ positive discrimination
- bribery/ gift giving
- monopolistic practices/ profiteering
- slander/ libel
- tax avoidance/ tax evasion