

Practically speaking | Giving both sides of the argument

- 1 When discussing changes at work, why is it important to consider both sides of an argument, for and against? Give an example of when you have to understand the other point of view at work.
- 2 ▶ **11.3** Listen to four short conversations about new proposals at work. For each conversation, make notes about the arguments for and against.

	For	Against
1 Changing the team meeting		
2 Restructuring		
3 Learning Spanish		
4 Extending office hours		

1

A I don't like the idea of changing the team meeting to Friday afternoons. People like me who are on flexitime often choose to leave early on Fridays.

B Yes, I have some reservations about it, too. Everyone's concentration probably won't be as good at the end of the week. But I can also see the point of moving it. We can never get everyone together in the same place at the same time during the week because we're all so busy. So at the moment Friday is the only option unless someone has another suggestion.

2

A If you ask me, this new restructuring is just a clever way of getting rid of staff.

B Err, I can see both sides of the argument. On the one hand, management want to streamline the company's operation, but on the other hand employees are naturally worried about possible job cuts.

3

A I can't believe the company is going to make us all learn Spanish.

B It sounds interesting – I like the idea of having a common language for the company – though I also understand that people who aren't confident in their language skills might find it difficult.

4

A Do you think this latest proposal is a good thing?

B Mm. I'm not sure. The main argument for it is that extending our office hours should improve the service. But the argument against it is the added costs. We really need to be certain that it will generate the extra revenue needed.