

ETHICAL BUSINESS (IDIOMS)

Name: _____

Read the text and answer the questions below.

In today's business world, ethical behavior is more important than ever. Employees are expected to do the right thing, even when nobody is watching. Acting by the book means following company rules and legal procedures strictly. However, some people believe that being too strict can limit creativity, while others say that only through clear rules can we avoid problems. A truly ethical employee tries to balance both—respecting the rules but also using good judgment.

Unfortunately, not everyone plays fair in the workplace. Some people cut corners to finish tasks faster or save money, sacrificing quality or honesty. Others try to sweep problems under the rug, hiding mistakes instead of solving them. This behavior can seriously damage a company's reputation. Ethical leaders encourage openness and honesty—keeping all business activities above board so that employees and clients can trust them completely.

Sometimes, ethical situations are not black or white; they are a gray area. For example, giving a small gift to a client might be seen as kind—or as trying to buy influence. When faced with these dilemmas, workers must act in good faith, showing honest intentions even if the situation is unclear. Those who stand their ground on ethical issues often gain the respect of others, even when their decisions are unpopular.

A strong ethical culture doesn't come from words alone. Companies must walk the talk—their actions should reflect their values. Some organizations pay lip service to ethics, talking about honesty but behaving differently. One rotten apple can also cause big trouble, spreading bad habits across a team. When everyone in a company truly commits to doing the right thing, the workplace becomes more trustworthy, respectful, and successful.

What is the main idea of the first paragraph?

- a) Rules are unnecessary in business.
- b) Ethics at work requires both rules and good judgment.
- c) Creativity is more important than honesty.
- d) Employees should only follow their emotions.

Why might some people think following rules too strictly is a problem?

- a) It can reduce creativity.
- b) It increases company profits.
- c) It makes employees lazy.
- d) It avoids all mistakes.

According to the text, what happens when employees hide mistakes?

- a) It helps improve teamwork.
- b) They usually receive a reward.
- c) The company's reputation can be harmed.
- d) Nothing serious occurs.

What do ethical leaders promote in their companies?

- a) Silence and obedience.
- b) Competition and secrecy
- c) Openness and honesty..
- d) Strict punishment for errors.

Why is transparency important in business, according to paragraph 2?

- a) It helps companies earn more money.
- b) It makes work faster.
- c) It allows employees to hide problems.
- d) It creates trust among workers and clients.

What does the third paragraph suggest about ethical dilemmas?

- a) They always have an easy answer.
- b) They can sometimes be unclear or complex.
- c) They are caused by poor training.
- d) They should be ignored.

What example does the text use to describe a “gray area”?

- a) Accepting gifts from clients.
- b) Sharing company secrets.
- c) Breaking safety rules.
- d) Missing a meeting.

How does the author describe people who defend their ethical beliefs?

- a) They are often unpopular but respected.
- b) They always get promoted.
- c) They usually lose their jobs.
- d) They are afraid to speak up.

What is necessary for a company to have a strong ethical culture?

- a) Many rules and long speeches.
- b) Frequent rewards for productivity.
- c) Only one ethical leader.
- d) Employees who act according to the company’s values.

What does the author criticize in the fourth paragraph?

- a) Workers who show respect for others.
- b) Teams that follow company rules.
- c) Companies that only talk about ethics but don’t act ethically.
- d) Managers who encourage honesty.

What is the problem with having a “rotten apple” in a team?

- a) It can spread bad habits and negative behavior.
- b) It motivates others to work harder.
- c) It helps managers make fair decisions.
- d) It brings innovation to the group.

According to the last paragraph, what is the result of everyone doing the right thing?

- a) The workplace becomes more respectful and trustworthy.
- b) Employees feel more afraid to speak up.
- c) Companies become less productive.
- d) Rules are no longer necessary.

What is the overall tone of the text?

- a) Negative and pessimistic.
- b) Motivational and educational.
- c) Angry and sarcastic.
- d) Confused and emotional.

Which of the following best summarizes the passage?

- a) Ethics in business depends on teamwork and communication.
- b) Ethical behavior requires honesty, action, and strong values.
- c) Companies should avoid all difficult decisions.
- d) It's impossible to be ethical in modern workplaces.

What message does the author want to give readers?

- a) Rules should be ignored to save time.
- b) Employees should follow others' examples.
- c) Success depends only on financial results.
- d) Ethics should guide decisions even when it's not easy.

True/False

The text says ethical behavior is no longer important in modern business. _____

Some workers hide mistakes instead of fixing them. _____

Ethical dilemmas are always simple and easy to solve. _____

The author believes that actions are more important than words in ethics. _____

A single dishonest employee can negatively affect an entire team. _____