

Getting Down to Business

LESSON 1

A Family Business

LISTENING



UNDERSTAND OPINION AND ATTITUDE

To understand opinion and attitude, you need to consider how a speaker thinks or feels about a subject. Speakers often say phrases like "I think," "I feel," or "I believe" before sharing their opinions. You can also listen for positive and negative adjectives to get an idea of the speaker's attitude toward a subject.



A **2.1** Listen to the conversation and choose the correct options.

- 1** Which phrase does Paolo use to describe his attitude about working with his family?
a the truth is **b** to tell you the truth
- 2** Which phrase does Kim use to express her opinion about learning to love cooking?
a to be honest **b** surprisingly
- 3** What word does Kim use to describe having arguments with family members?
a unfortunately **b** the truth is
- 4** Which phrase does Paolo use to describe who he'd rather argue with?
a no doubt **b** if you ask me
- 5** What word does Kim use to give her opinion about starting positions in a family business?
a obviously **b** definitely

B **2.1** Listen again and complete the sentences with one word.

- 1 Paolo says that after he finishes his education, he might be working in his dad's _____ plant.
- 2 Kim explains that when she was young, she disliked being in the _____.
- 3 Kim says that a great thing about working in a family business is that everyone is _____ in making the company successful.
- 4 Paolo explains that he can't imagine having a fight with his _____, because they get along so well.
- 5 Kim says that arguing with family members at work can bring about new _____.
- 6 Kim explains that working in his family's business is something Paolo should take _____ of.
- 7 Paolo tells Juanita that he sometimes gets into _____ discussions with his family that don't involve work.

VOCABULARY

A Choose the correct preposition to complete the phrasal verb so that it matches the definition provided.

- 1 get over / ahead: succeed at something
- 2 take in / over: complete what someone else started
- 3 run out / by: ask for an opinion
- 4 sell out / up: sell all products
- 5 fill up / in: do a person's job while they're gone
- 6 set in / up: begin or establish
- 7 take on / over: accept more responsibilities
- 8 work on / out: spend time creating something

B Complete each sentence with a word from the box. You will need to use one word more than once.

run sell set take work

- 1 If I _____ on any more responsibilities at work, I fear I'm going to be very stressed out!
- 2 I'd like to _____ up a food catering business, so I'm looking for some advice on how to get started.
- 3 When Dad retires next year, who's going to _____ over running the family business?
- 4 The branding for our business seems outdated, so I'd like to _____ on creating something more up to date.
- 5 I'm not sure about this idea; let me _____ it by my business partner first.
- 6 Everything this weekend is going to be half off, so I hope we _____ out of all our merchandise.

GRAMMAR

A Complete the grammar rules with phrases from the box.

a group	a small number of things	countable
individual things	less or fewer of something than expected	uncountable

- 1 The quantifiers *a few*, *few*, *each*, and *every* are followed by _____ nouns.
- 2 The quantifiers *a little* and *little* are followed by _____ nouns.
- 3 We use *a few* and *a little* when we want to quantify _____.
- 4 We use *few* and *little* when we want to quantify _____.
- 5 We use *every* when we want to emphasize _____.
- 6 We use *each* when we want to emphasize _____.

B Choose the correct options.

- 1 I'm afraid there are **a few** / **few** stores open at this late hour.
- 2 I'll be ready to go in an hour. I just have **little** / **a little** work to finish up before we leave.
- 3 Suzie tried to get started on the project, but she had **a little** / **little** information to go on.
- 4 Don't you love these birthday cupcakes? **Each** / **Every** has its own unique flavor.
- 5 There were **few** / **a few** people asking about our holiday store hours, so I put up a notice at the main entrance.
- 6 Sometimes to get a new store up and running, you just need **a few** / **a little** patience.
- 7 For the most difficult questions in life, sometimes there are **little** / **few** answers.

C Complete the text with words and phrases from the box.

a few (x2) a little each every few little

Most people today spend most of their lives working in large companies, and **1** _____ workers either open their own business or just work with a small group of people with similar interests. I believe there are **2** _____ people who can say they have worked their whole lives in a family business, but I'm proud to say that I'm one of those people. Obviously, not **3** _____ member of my family is easy to work with. My brother and I often argue about how to run the company, although we usually only need **4** _____ minutes to work things out. My mom is always telling me not to work too hard, but that's not so bad, right? We all need to take **5** _____ time to ourselves to relax. And my youngest sister ... well, I think she'll probably find a different career because she shows **6** _____ interest in the family business! Of course, that's OK, because **7** _____ person must follow their path in life. I'm just lucky to have found that path so close to home.