

VOCABULARY + CONDITIONALS

Fill in the blanks using the correct conditional form of the verbs in parentheses and the appropriate words from the box.

brave, heroic, educated, embarrassed, kind, generous, afraid of, selfish, ordinary, fear

The Ethical Dilemma

Michael was the CEO of a successful company. One day, he faced a difficult decision—his company had the chance to increase his profits significantly, but it would mean cutting employee benefits. He knew that if he (be) _____ too _____, his employees (lose) _____ trust in him.

His business partner, Sarah, suggested a different approach. “If we (invest) _____ in employee well-being instead, our company (become) _____ more respected in the long run,” she said. Michael admired Sarah’s _____ mindset; she always thought about others before herself.

However, not everyone agreed. Tom, the CFO, was _____ that reducing costs was the only way to survive in a competitive market. “If we (not cut) _____ expenses now, we (struggle) _____ later,” he insisted.

Despite the pressure, Michael wanted to be a _____ leader, not just an _____ businessman. He believed that success wasn’t just about numbers; it was about making the right choices. If more leaders (act) _____ with _____ instead of greed, businesses (create) _____ a better world.

In the end, Michael made his decision. If he (choose) _____ profit over people, he (feel) _____ _____. Instead, he decided to implement policies that supported his employees. It was a risk, but one that could lead to long-term success.