

## A WORK PROBLEM

### Before you read

- 1 How important are these things in a new job? Number them 1–5  
(1 = very important, 5 = not important).

high salary  
friendly colleagues  
good job title  
interesting projects  
helpful manager

- 2 Use a dictionary to match the words (1–5) to their meanings (a–e).

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 1 disappointment | a) doing something in a hurry                                |
| 2 colleagues     | b) allow somebody to join or be part of something            |
| 3 hasty          | c) giving someone a more important job in a company          |
| 4 promotion      | d) feeling sad, because something is not as good as expected |
| 5 accept         | e) people who work for the same organisation                 |

### Reading

Read this article adapted from the *Financial Times* and answer the questions on the next page.

**FT**

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

## Should I stay or should I go?

by Lucy Kellaway

### The problem

"My new job is a great disappointment. My department is badly run, top management don't seem to care, and my new colleagues are not very friendly. Now I hear that my old boss wants me back. I want to see if he is serious, but that might seem like I am desperate to return to my old job. Besides, I don't want to be too hasty. I have worked in my new job for six months. After all, it takes time to be accepted into a successful team."

*Senior manager, male, mid-50s*

### The solution

Going back to an old employer is never a bad idea. You know

- » exactly what it is like to work for your old boss. You know that working there is comfortable, and sometimes comfort is a good thing.
- » You say your old boss is anxious to rehire you, but don't approach him yet. Wait and let him come to you. Try to negotiate a return with a lot more money and a promotion.

But remember you've only been away for six months. I'm

not sure that this is long enough to make a decision about the new place.

Some organisations don't like outsiders; it takes a while before they accept them, and until then, they are pretty unfriendly.

- » Spend time working hard at your new job and be friendly. Then, if you decide to go back to your old job, you know that you tried.

**1 What three things does the writer not like about his new job?**

**2 Decide whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F).**

- a) The person with the problem is a young woman. *F*
- b) The writer is happy in his new job.
- c) The writer's old boss wants him to return to his old job.
- d) Lucy says that it is a good idea to make a decision immediately.
- e) Trying to get a better salary for your old job is a good idea.
- f) Six months is too soon to make a decision about the new job.
- g) Lucy suggests it is a good idea to work hard and be friendly in the new job.

**3 Complete the sentences below using the words in the box.**

department negotiate promotion team

- a) These products are expensive. Can we *negotiate* a better price?
- b) Would they like to work on a new project, as part of an international .....?
- c) Does she work in the Sales and Marketing.....?
- e) Do you want to stay in your present job, or do you want a.....?

### Over to you

**1 Do you agree with Lucy's advice? Why? / Why not?**

**2 Choose the options in italics to make sentences that you agree with.**

- a) I think it's a good idea for him to *stay in* /*leave* his new job.
- b) *It is* /*isn't* a good idea to *return* to his old job.
- c) Six months *is* /*isn't* enough time to decide that a job is good or bad.