

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).

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|------------------|--|
| 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.