

Week 11 – Conditionals – part 2

What would you do in the following situations?

Business Ethics Scenarios

References:

1. A former employee who was fired due to poor quality work, absences, and lateness related to her drinking problem, informs you that she has applied for a position at another company and has already given your name as a reference. She desperately needs a job (she is a single parent with three children), and she asks you to give her a good recommendation and not mention her drinking, which she assures you is now under control.

She also asks you to say that she voluntarily left the company to address a family medical crisis, and that the company was pleased with her work. You like this person and believe she is a good worker when she is not drinking. You doubt that she really has overcome her drinking problem, however, and you would not recommend your own company hire her back.

What would you say to this woman?

What would you say to an employer who calls you for a reference?

What if the prospective employer was a friend?

Suppose the problem was a theft?

Suppose she had asked you to be a reference prior to supplying your name to her prospective employer?

What values are at stake? Do some of the values conflict with one another?

2. Receiving a Holiday Gift:

A supplier sends a basket of expensive foodstuffs to your home at Christmas with a card: "We hope you and your family enjoy the 'goodies.'" What action(s) might you want to take?

3. Sales Expense:

The purchasing manager for a large company agrees to give you an order (their first), expecting you agree to make a \$200 donation to his favorite charity, a local youth sports team. How do you respond?

4. Sales Expense Reimbursement:

A customer executive from Southeast Asia will visit your HQ facility and meet with your executive team. Your independent Southeast Asian agent requests that you reimburse the customer for his expenses, including expenses that could violate your company's policies. The agent will reimburse you. How do you proceed?

A large, prospective client calls you and asks about a competitor's reputation. One of your long time customers had a very bad experience with this competitor. What information do you share with the prospect? How do you respond to the prospect call?

6. Conflict of Interest:

As department manager, you are hosting an informal celebration in the office. The food budget is \$200. Your next door neighbor has just started her own catering business and asks to supply the food. Since she is just starting out, she'll do it at cost and provide extra items at no charge. What might you want to consider?

7. More Competition:

You are in a head-to-head battle with your arch competitor, Evil Enterprises. One of your co-workers approaches you. He has recently joined your company after having worked for a second competitor for several years.

He suggests, "I made notes on all of Evil's bids when I could get the data. They use some clear cost standards. Would you like me to bring my notes to the office tomorrow and let you look through them?" How do you respond?

Grammar - conditionals

A Look at these sentences and answer the questions below.

1. If share prices go up again, we'll make lots of money.
2. If we changed the package for this perfume, people might not recognize it.
3. If I hadn't been late for the interview, they might have offered me the job.
4. If you won the lottery, what would you spend the money on?

Which sentence refers to:

- A real or very possible future situation?
- A hypothetical or less probable future situation?
- A tentative observation (the speaker is not certain about what he is saying)?
- A regret about a past action?

B Underline an appropriate form and then complete the sentences. How likely is it that these situations will happen?

If I only work/worked four days a week, _____

If I get/got a pay rise, _____

- What would you do if you made a serious error at work that none could possibly trace....
- What would you do if your company moved their premises to another town?

- What would you do if you were about to sign a contract and noticed a mistake in a clause that could greatly benefit your company?
- What would you do if you could a large sum of money to invest?
- What would you do if you could reorganize the television broadcasting
- if you could decide how much tax to charge on a packet of cigarettes?
- if you were ten years younger?

C In what situations might you?

- Send food back in a restaurant?
- Emigrate?
- Dye your hair?