

COFFEE MACHINE CHAT

Materials: one copy of the worksheet per pair of students

Ss work in pairs. Give them their worksheet. Begin by explaining the scenario outlined at the top: Student A and B work in the same company but Student B, who is a very popular boss, is leaving the office for a better job in Spain and is going to be replaced by an unpopular colleague, Marco. Student A is talking to Student B at the coffee machine about how bad things are going to be after Student B's departure. Ss have to put the conversation in the correct order. Student A starts, Student B finds the correct response, then it's Student A's turn again and so on. Ss take it in turns until the conversation finishes. They are not allowed to look at each other's worksheets at any time. When they have finished, Ss should try to have the conversation again but this time without the prompts. They should try to still use the vocabulary in **bold**, but can invent other details and extend the conversation.

Answer key

2 i 3 f 4 g 5 a 6 k 7 e 8 h 9 c 10 l 11 b 12
j 13 d



Student A

You work in a large office and you have found out that your boss, Student B, is leaving for another job abroad. You've also heard that your colleague, Marco, has been promoted and is going to replace Student B. You are really unhappy as nobody likes Marco and everyone loved working for Student B. You meet Student B at the coffee machine and have a chat.

Start: Hi. Congratulations on the new job. You must be really excited about it.

- a Well, it's hard to **look on the bright side** when your new boss is going to be Marco. Anyway, you never liked him.
- b No, it's **one step forward and two steps back**. Anyway, I guess we'll just have to do the best we can.
- c Disappointed!?! He told me he was **filled with despair**. The company only made Marco boss to save money. They know nobody likes him and loads of people will quit.
- d Wow, that sounds **promising!** When can I start?
- e Yes, we've all had our **ups and downs**. What were the company thinking when they appointed him? I'm really not looking forward to working for him.
- f Yes, I'd be **filled with optimism** if I were you. You know it's going to be absolutely terrible here without you.

Student B

You are the boss of a large office but you are leaving this job to work for a bigger company in Spain. You have also heard that your colleague, Marco, has been promoted and is going to replace you. Everyone is really unhappy as nobody likes him and everyone loved working for you. You meet your colleague, Student A, at the coffee machine and have a chat.

g Come on, don't be so **gloomy**. Try to look at the positives of having a new boss.

Finish: Anyway, must dash. I've got a desk to tidy out! See you later.

h You're not alone. I think all your colleagues are **dreading** it too. Jack said he was disappointed about the decision.

i Yes, I'm really **looking forward to** working in Spain and some new challenges. I'm really positive about the future.

j That's better, you're sounding a bit more **upbeat** now. If you're interested, I may be able to get you a job with me.

k I wouldn't say that, I have **mixed feelings** about him but he's good at his job. Sure, we've had a few problems over the years.

l I'm not sure that's true, but it's difficult not to be **cynical**. Anyway, whatever the reasons are, a decision like this is not progress or good for the company.