English at Work Episode 3: The crisis Making suggestions



Narrator: Here we are again at Tip Top Trading, where Anna's interview for a sales

job has been suddenly interrupted. Office assistant Denise has entered the

room, looking very worried. What's wrong? And will Anna have any

suggestions that might help?

Denise: I don't know what to do!

Paul: So what's the matter Denise?

Denise: You know the PowerPoint presentation?

Paul: The one we've been preparing for the last two months?

Denise: Yes.

Paul: The one that's very, very important and that we need this afternoon?

Denise: That one.

Paul: Aha.

Denise: We've lost everything!

Paul: No!

Denise: I had it on a USB stick, to transfer it, but the stick has vanished!

Narrator: Right Anna, now is your chance to help them find solutions to the problem.

You'll need phrases like: Can I make a suggestion?

Why don't you...? Have you tried...? Maybe we could...? How about...? I have an idea!

Paul: But don't you have it saved on your computer?

Denise: No, it was taking up a lot of space, so I deleted it.

Paul: So you have lost the only copy we have.

Denise: Yes.

Narrator: What idiots! I've never seen such a disorganised office. Go on, you'd better

help them, Anna.

Anna: Can I make a suggestion?

Paul: Yes, please do!

Anna: Why don't you try looking in your recycle bin? It might still be there.

Denise: I did. It isn't.

Anna: Have you tried asking your colleagues if they've seen the memory stick?

Denise: I did. They haven't.

Anna: How about looking through your rubbish bin to see if you threw it away by

mistake?

Denise: (getting shirty) I don't do silly things like that!

Paul: All very sensible suggestions Anna, thank you.

Maybe I could do a big office search for you...? I'm good at finding things. Anna:

Denise: There are confidential documents in this office - non-staff are not allowed

to see them.

Paul: Now, now Denise. Why don't you drink up that nice tea?

Anna: I have an idea! Did you ever email the presentation to anyone?

Paul: Golly gosh, you did Denise! You emailed it to me to proof-read. It'll be in

my inbox somewhere. Good thinking Anna!

I was just about to suggest that myself actually. Denise:

Paul: Problem solved. Thank you Anna!

Anna: Pleasure.

Narrator: Well done Anna!

Paul: Right, now please leave us Denise. Anna and I will continue our interview.

Would you like a biscuit Anna?

Anna: Thank you. Oh, what's that?

Paul: Oh golly gosh, the USB stick! It was mixed in with the plate of biscuits that

Denise brought in.

Anna: It's wet! Paul: Yes, I think maybe I stirred my tea with it at one point. Oh well. Now,

where were we...?

My goodness, it's 11 o'clock! I have a meeting right now! I'm afraid I'm going to have to go. But I've made up my mind about you anyway. I

suppose you'd like to know if you've got the job?

Anna: Yes please!

Narrator: Ah - Stop right there! I'm sure everybody would like to know if Anna's got

the job - but everybody's going to have to wait until we've heard her

helpful phrases once again:

Can I make a suggestion?
Why don't you try looking in your recycle bin?
Have you tried asking your colleagues if they've seen the memory stick?
How about...?
Maybe I could do a big office search for you...?
How about looking through your rubbish bin...?
I have an idea!

Paul: Anna, we need someone who can think on her feet and who is a first-rate

people person. Someone who sees solutions, not problems... someone like

you! So if you want the job, it's yours!

Narrator: Ah, now think carefully Anna – do you really want to work for these

people? They seem a bit... disorganised.

Anna: I would definitely like the job! Thank you!

Narrator: So be it. Join us again next week for Anna's first day as a sales executive

at Tip Top Trading.

• Listening comprehension question Why was the memory stick wet?

Because it had been in Paul's tea.