

The Black Hole

SPEAKING: OFFICE LIFE

1. Look at the pictures below. Discuss with a partner

Which office would you prefer to work in? Why?

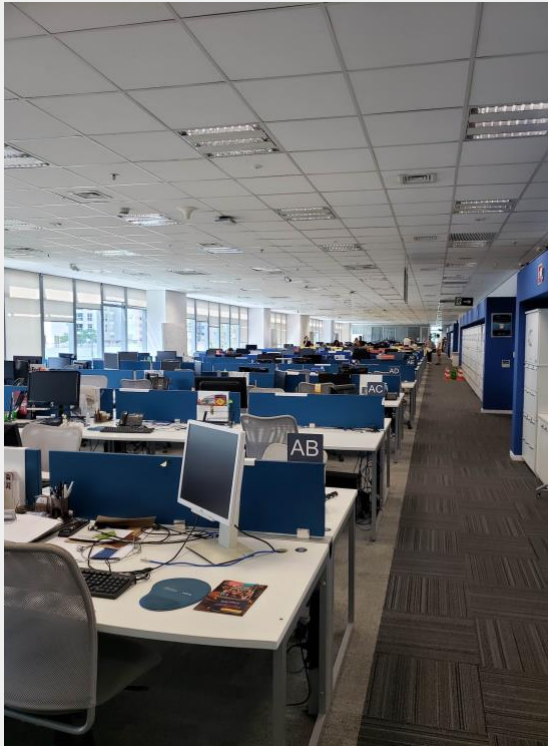


Photo by [Eduardo Alexandre](#) on [Unsplash](#)

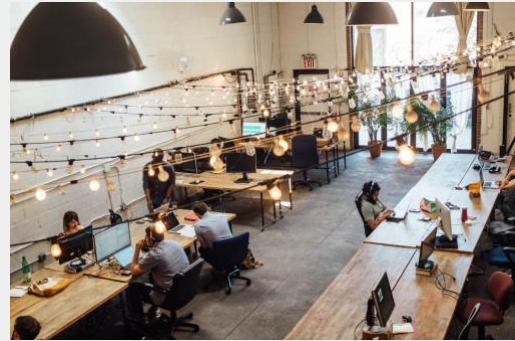


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2. Discuss the questions in pairs.

- Can you think of three adjectives to describe working in an office?
- Do you think work colleagues can ever be true friends?
- What aspects of office life do you think might be less enjoyable?
- Do you agree that people do more risky things when they think nobody is watching? Why (not)?

3. You will watch a video called “The Black Hole” set in an office. What might it be about? Share your ideas with a partner.
4. Listen to the video first without watching it. What do you think is happening?
5. Watch the [video](#) and see if your ideas in exercises 3 and 4 were correct.



6. Look at the words in bold in the sentences below. What do they mean? Write definitions for them with a partner.
7. Order the events below. Write 1-8 in the box. Watch the video again to check.

- He stole chocolate from a **vending machine**.
- He **sighed**.
- He **broke into** the office.
- The photocopier **jammed**.
- The picture fell from the **safe**.
- He **grabbed** bundles of cash.
- He kicked the photocopier in **frustration**.
- He **banged** on the safe door.

8. **Discuss with a partner.**

What would you do with a ‘black hole’ if you were alone at work / school?
Is there anything you wouldn’t do? Why (not)?

GRAMMAR: Third Conditional

9. **“If he had loved his job, he wouldn’t have got into trouble.”**

Do you agree? Discuss in pairs, giving reasons for your choices.

10. Look at the quote and complete the rules for the third conditional. Choose the correct option or write the missing words.

“If he had loved his job, he wouldn’t have got into trouble.”

- The third conditional describes a **past / present** situation that is **possible / impossible**. It refers to something that is **real / hypothetical**.
- It is made up of **one / two** clauses: an ‘if clause’ which shows a condition and a second clause that shows the consequence.
- After ‘If’ we use the _____ tense.
- In the second clause we use would or wouldn’t + have + _____. We can also use a modal verb, like could or should.
- We often use the third conditional to talk about regrets and dreams because it refers to something we can’t change.

11. Complete the sentences using the third conditional.

- If I (have) had had more money, I would have been happier.
- If it (not rain) _____ yesterday, we could have gone to the beach.
- We (be) _____ watching TV now if we hadn’t come to school.
- My mum (not mind) _____ if I had forgotten to buy her a Christmas present.
- If I (grow up) _____ in England, I would have had a very different life.



Complete the following sentences with your own ideas.

- I would have stopped talking to my best friend if _____.
- If you had met me five years ago, you _____.
- If I could have visited another country last year, I _____.

12. Compare your answers with a partner and say if you agree with the sentences or not.

13. Think about the character in ‘The Black Hole’. What regrets would he be having while locked in the safe? With a partner, discuss what he might have said to himself using the vocabulary from exercise 6.

If I hadn't ...,
I wouldn't have ...



Photo by [lucas clarysse](#) on [Unsplash](#)

SPEAKING: Role-Play

14. In pairs, decide who is A and who is B. A is the employee and B is his boss.

Imagine it is the next morning. Role-play the conversation between the two characters.

You have 5 minutes to prepare what you are going to say.

Try and use the third conditional and the vocabulary from exercise 6.

Boss

Think about what questions you will ask him.

Think about what punishment you will give him

Employee

-Think about how you can explain being in the safe.

-Are you going to tell the truth?