

## Good news or bad news, which do you want first?

1. Watch a short [video](https://youtu.be/vsLH70BrnnM) [<https://youtu.be/vsLH70BrnnM>] showing a boss giving some news to his employees. Then, discuss the questions below.

- What news did the boss give his employees?
- Why was his way of giving the bad news inappropriate?  
How could he have done it better?
- When was the last time you had to give good or bad news? What happened?
- Why can it be difficult to give good or bad news to people?

### GUTTING

very disappointing or upsetting

### EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING

used for saying that there is usually a good aspect of a bad situation

2. Complete the gaps with the words in the box.

afraid      for      know      pleased      news      regret  
              sorry      unfortunately      way      what

- I'm **afraid** I have some bad news. I was fired.
- I am **sorry** to say that the project has been cancelled.
- I **regret** to inform you that your application has been unsuccessful.
- We appreciate the opportunity to read your article, but **unfortunately** it will not be published.
- There is no easy **way** to say this, but we will be closing our London division.
- You **know** what? I got the job!
- Guess **what**? We got engaged!
- We're **pleased** to tell you that you have been nominated for Employee of the Year.
- I have some great news **for** you. You've been promoted to senior manager.
- Good **news**! I passed my final exam and got an A.

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### 3. Read the sentences from the previous exercise again and react to them by choosing appropriate reactions from the list below.

- Congrats!
- Congratulations!
- What a shame!
- That's amazing! Thank you!
- Oh, I'm so sorry.
- It's a pity that...
- I'm so sorry to hear that.
- I can't believe it.
- That sounds fantastic!
- What great news!

### 4. Complete the dialogues with your own ideas and the language you've learnt.

a) A: We regret to inform you that you have not passed your driving licence exam.

B: .....

b) A: .....

B: That's amazing! Thank you!

c) A: I'm afraid I have some bad news. Our flight to Barcelona has been cancelled.

B: .....

d) A: You look really excited! What happened?

B: I have some great news! I got an email from Google and they want to hire me!

A: .....

e) A: .....

B: I'm so sorry to hear that.

### 5. Work in pairs. You're going to get a card with a role to play. Read your card and prepare to have a conversation with your partner. [SEE THE NEXT PAGE]



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<b>STUDENT A</b>	<b>STUDENT B</b>
<p>You need to give your partner good and bad news.</p> <p>Good news:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You won a trip</li> </ul> <p>Bad news:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The trip is for one person only</li> </ul> <p>Think of and prepare some details: how you won this trip (e.g. radio competition), where you're going, why you're excited, etc.</p> <p>Start a conversation by asking the question:</p> <p><i>Good news or bad news, which do you want first?</i></p>	<p>Your partner will give you some important news.</p> <p>Your task is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answer their question</li> <li>• React appropriately to what they say</li> <li>• Ask questions and comment on what you hear</li> </ul> <p>Your partner starts.</p>
<p>Your manager will give you some important news.</p> <p>Your task is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answer their question</li> <li>• React appropriately to what they say</li> <li>• Ask questions and comment on what you hear</li> </ul> <p>Your partner starts.</p>	<p>You are a senior manager and need to give good and bad news to your co-workers.</p> <p>Good news:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your company is merging with another company and all employees are getting a raise</li> </ul> <p>Bad news:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You need to relocate to a different city</li> </ul> <p>Think of and prepare some details: the summary of the situation, what company you merge with and why (<i>You know that...</i>), etc.</p> <p>Start a conversation by asking the question:</p> <p><i>Good news or bad news, which do you want first?</i></p>

## Good news or bad news, which do you want first?

### STUDENT A

You are a parent and need to give good and bad news to your child.

Good news:

- You're moving to a new house in a better location (closer to your children's school)

Bad news:

- Your son/daughter will share their room with their younger siblings

Think of and prepare some details: the summary of the situation, the house description, why it is so great that you're moving there, etc.

Start a conversation by asking the question:

*Good news or bad news, which do you want first?*

### STUDENT B

You are a child and your parent will give you some important news.

Your task is to:

- Answer their question
- React appropriately to what they say
- Ask questions and comment on what you hear

Your partner starts.