

## 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- We appreciate the opportunity to read your article, but **unfortunately** it will not be published.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.

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

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?

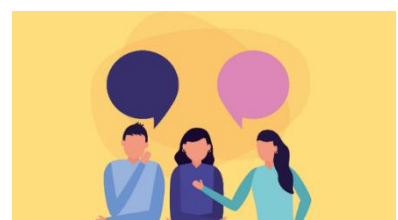
B: I have some great news! I got an email from Google and they want to hire me!

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]**



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

You need to give your partner good and bad news.

Good news:

- You won a trip

Bad news:

- The trip is for one person only

Think of and prepare some details: how you won this trip (e.g. radio competition), where you're going, why you're excited, etc.

Start a conversation by asking the question:

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

**STUDENT B**

Your partner 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.

**STUDENT A**

Your manager 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.

**STUDENT B**

You are a senior manager and need to give good and bad news to your co-workers.

Good news:

- Your company is merging with another company and all employees are getting a raise

Bad news:

- You need to relocate to a different city

Think of and prepare some details: the summary of the situation, what company you merge with and why (*You know that...*), etc.

Start a conversation by asking the question:

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

**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.