

In episode 11, Mei talks about her problems at work. What is she going to do?

Before listening

Do the preparation task first. Then listen to the audio and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

Vocabulary

1. to have a word
2. to get your stuff together
3. an app
4. programming
5. to wish
6. to keep your fingers crossed
7. guys
8. design

Definition

- a. to want something to happen, especially something impossible or unlikely
- b. men; often used informally to refer to a group of men and/or women
- c. to talk with someone
- d. to collect all your things
- e. an application; a program for a phone or computer
- f. writing code for a computer program
- g. to draw or plan how something will look
- h. to hope for a good result

Tasks

Task 1

Write a number (1–8) to put the events in the order they are mentioned.

- _____ Milton gets a phone call.
- _____ Mei, Robert and Milton talk about what the word ‘guys’ means.
- _____ Mei’s boss calls for a meeting.
- _____ Robert suggests what Mei should do.
- _____ Mei tells Robert and Milton about her work.
- _____ Mei isn’t sure if she should go to the meeting or not.
- _____ Mei doesn’t say anything in the meeting.
- _____ Milton talks about his parents.

Task 2

Are the sentences true or false?

	Answer	
1. Mei is feeling ill.	True	False
2. Mei goes to the meeting.	True	False
3. Mei is programming a new travel app at the moment.	True	False
4. Mei’s colleagues ask her a lot of questions in meetings.	True	False
5. There are only three women working in Mei’s office.	True	False
6. Robert thinks Mei should tell her manager why she’s unhappy.	True	False
7. Milton’s mother lives in Brazil.	True	False
8. Milton gets a phone call about his pizza delivery job.	True	False

Discussion

Do your friends help you with your problems at work?

Transcript

Mei: Hello, Jiang. I wish I could come to your house and we could have those chicken noodles that your mum makes. You know, the ones she makes when someone is ill – if they have a bad cold or something. And no, I'm not ill. I'm just a bit sad and missing home – and you, of course. I even miss your noisy little brother and his rude comments. And the dog, trying to eat the noodles from your bowl. No, really, I'm fine. I love my flat and my neighbours are nice but work is difficult.

Steve (boss): Hey, guys, good morning. (*The men reply 'Hi', 'Hi, Steve', 'Morning', 'Hey, boss', etc.*) Steve, can we have a word? Get the guys from your team together, would you? Let's talk round the table in the middle, five minutes.

Steve (programmer): OK, Steve. You heard him. Come on, get your stuff together. Mei?

Mei: Yes?

Steve (programmer): Get your stuff together. Three minutes. Bring your laptop.

Mei: Of course. OK. I'm sorry. I thought he meant you and the others when he said 'guys', 'the guys from your team' – all of you men, not me. Am I a guy?

Steve (programmer): Are you a guy? Um, well no, you're not a guy – but you can be 'one of the guys', I suppose, can't you? Aren't you? Anyway, get your laptop. We'll talk about it later.

Steve (boss): OK, Steve. How's the work on the new travel app going?

Steve (programmer): Tony and Greg, would you guys – um, you two – like to answer that? You're doing the programming on the map ...

Steve (boss): I thought it was Dave and Mikey – no? OK, no problem. And Mei? Is she not working on the travel app?

Steve (programmer): Not yet. Not on the programming. She'll be working on the design and development a bit later.

Steve (boss): OK. So, Tony and Greg – fill me in ...

Mei: It's like that all the time. They don't talk to me in meetings – they just talk about me. And they haven't given me any programming to do yet. Not on any of the new apps we're working on. They want me to do some design work later, about how it looks and stuff. I think it's because I'm a woman. They think women are better at artistic things – making the app look pretty, I suppose. I was telling Robert ... Ah! I didn't tell you. I had a coffee with Milton and Robert yesterday – you remember, I talked about Robert, Milton's student, the one who wants to go to Brazil. He's really nice. I told them a bit about what things are like at work ...

Robert: And how many women are there in the office?

Mei: Three.

Milton and Robert: Three!

Milton: And you said there are four men called Steve. That means there are more men called Steve in your office than there are women.

Robert: That's not good.

Mei: Well, no. It isn't good. I suppose it's funny – but it's true. And tell me – 'guys' means men, doesn't it? If you say 'the guys', you mean men, don't you? Not women.

Robert: Good question. I'm not sure.

Milton: But you can say 'Hi, guys' to a group of men and women – can't you?

Robert: Well, yes, people do all the time. But I think if I said 'the guys at work', I'd be talking about the men, not the women.

Mei: OK. So I'm not crazy. They talk about 'the guys' all the time. I don't like it. I feel like I don't exist.

Robert: So you should say something, Mei. If you don't like it, you should say something.

Mei: Oh, I don't know. It's difficult. Let's change the subject.

Robert: OK. Any news about your job, Milton? *Game of Thrones*?

Milton: Not yet, but let's all keep our fingers crossed. My mum would be so proud of me! Her little boy on the television.

Robert: Where does your mum live? Which part of Brazil?

Milton: No, no, she doesn't live in Brazil. She's Brazilian, of course, but she's married to an American – Henry – and she moved to the US with him. They live in Florida. And no, he isn't my father. My dad died a long time ago. She married Henry two years ago and he's a really nice man.

Robert: Have you been out to visit them?

Milton: No, not yet. They got married in Brazil, but now they want to have another wedding in Florida – and I guess I'll have to go to that.

Mei: Nice! I would love to go to Florida.

Milton: Well, perhaps you could come with me. I need to take a partner to the wedding. My mum's always ... Wait a minute, I need to get this. It's the agency – about the job – the *Game of Thrones* thing ... Hello?

Mei: So Robert thinks I should say something to my boss – tell him what I'm unhappy about. Oh, I don't know, Jiang. Don't say anything to Mum and Dad about it. I don't want them to know I'm not happy. Send me lots of news about you. Do think about coming over to see me – I really need a visit from home. Oh, and I forgot, Milton got an answer about the job on *Game of Thrones* ... You'll never guess ...

Answers

Preparation task

1. c
2. d
3. e
4. f
5. a
6. h
7. b
8. g

Task 1

8 Milton gets a phone call.

5 Mei, Robert and Milton talk about what the word 'guys' means.

1 Mei's boss calls for a meeting.

6 Robert suggests what Mei should do.

4 Mei tells Robert and Milton about her work.

2 Mei isn't sure if she should go to the meeting or not.

3 Mei doesn't say anything in the meeting.

7 Milton talks about his parents.

Task 2

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. False
5. True
6. True
7. False
8. False