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Unemployment

W: Today I'd like to talk about unemployment. You might have heard of the closure of this factory in the North.

Sarah: yes, I have. Four hundred fifty workers joined the dole queue. The staff cutback announced by the management last month came as a terrible shock to all the workers of the company, and the closure is now a disaster.

W: And I heard that in another big firm two thousand jobs have been lost in order to cut costs and boost profits. Isn't it awful?

Sarah: Definitely. Even though the fall of unemployment is number one priority for any government, it doesn't prevent companies from doing job cuts. Despite the law, French employers do not seem to think that the thirty five-hour working week is a magic cure-all for unemployment.

W: Unfortunately. Unemployment is one of the scourges of modern times and hits young and old people alike. And for a job seeker, you have a better chance of finding a job if you are prepared to be flexible...

Sarah: ...Which is difficult for most people who only had a single training and one job. Most people have a sense of uselessness when they cannot find a job.

W: Well, some say that the lavish social benefits French unemployed people enjoy do not always encourage them to look for work.

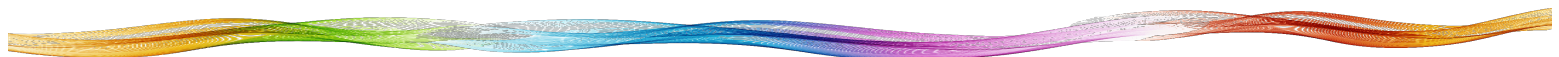
Sarah: It is commonly said so. Actually, in some countries, unemployed people have to take any job offered to them or they lose their unemployment benefit. That is to my mind an interesting option.

W: Why not. We could also consider work-sharing as a solution to unemployment.



GLOSSARY:

Unemployment	a disaster
To hear/heard/heard	A big firm
To join	The fall
To announce	Number one priority
To lose/lost/lost	Any government
To cut costs	Job cuts
To boost profits	The law
To prevent from (+ Ving)	thirty five-hour working week
To seem	a magic cure-all
To hit	Scourge
To be prepared	Modern times
To encourage	a job seeker
To look for	A single training
To offer	Uselessness
To consider	the lavish social benefits
the closure	any job offered
A factory: une usine	unemployment benefit
Workers: des ouvriers	Work-sharing
The dole queue	Even though
The staff cutback	Despite
the management	Alike
a terrible shock	Flexible
The company	





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