

## Chapter 9

# The Parents Panic

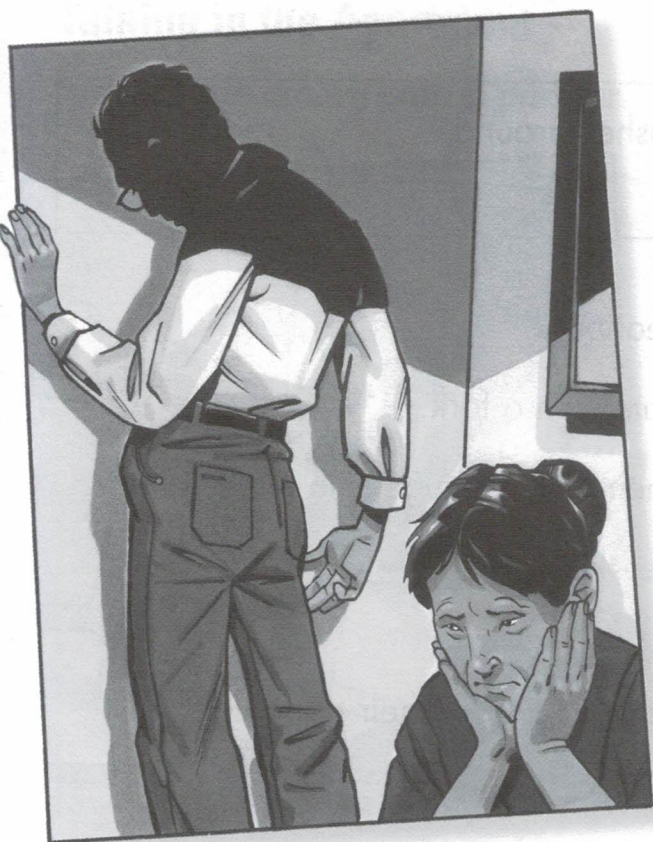


Heng and Nary are upstairs in their apartment. They are sitting at the dinner table, but they aren't very hungry. Heng stirs his soup without eating it. Nary pushes around the rice on her plate with a fork. There are many evenings like this. "Our business is going down the drain," says Nary, her voice shaking.

Heng and Nary often remember their life as refugees in the U.S. They started with almost nothing. Little by little, they built a good business. Although they are not rich, they have a home. And Lucky Donuts had supported them financially—before their daughter ruined everything.

"Changing the business model," mutters Heng angrily. He leaves the table and walks nervously around the room. "Ugh! Sometimes I regret Soriya's MBA. Her great ideas are hurting us—not helping us."

"I agree," says Nary. "Are we going to do something now—or wait until we lose everything?" These nightly conversations never end with a solution. Heng and Nary want



to trust their daughter. After all, she invested her money too. Unfortunately, they can't wait forever. "We can't afford these new employees," continues Nary.

"No, we can't," says Heng. But I don't want to fire Max and Lucie. They're nice people, and they're really good at their jobs."

"No, we can't fire them. Besides, they know how to make the things on the menu," says Nary. "But maybe we need to fire our daughter."

### Answer the questions.

1. Where are Heng and Nary? Where are they sitting?
2. What does Heng stir? What does Nary push around?
3. Where does Nary say their business is going?
4. What do Heng and Nary often remember? How much did they start with?
5. Little by little, what did they build?
6. How did Lucky Donuts support them before their daughter ruined everything?
7. What does Heng sometimes regret? What does he think about her great ideas?
8. How do these nightly conversations end?
9. Which people can't they afford?
10. Why don't they want to fire Max and Lucie?



## Complete the sentences.

built  
remember

mutters  
ruined

pushes around  
stirs

regret  
trust

1. Heng \_\_\_\_\_ his soup without eating it.
2. Nary \_\_\_\_\_ the rice on her plate with a fork.
3. Heng and Nary often \_\_\_\_\_ their life as refugees in the U.S.
4. They started with almost nothing. Little by little, they \_\_\_\_\_ a good business.
5. And Lucky Donuts had supported them financially—before their daughter \_\_\_\_\_ everything.
6. "Changing the business model," \_\_\_\_\_ Heng angrily.
7. "Sometimes I \_\_\_\_\_ Soriya's MBA. Her great ideas are hurting us—not helping us."
8. Heng and Nary want to \_\_\_\_\_ their daughter. After all, she invested her money too.

## Matching: Definitions

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. solution

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. refugees

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. employees

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. daughter

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. conversations

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. drain

a. talks between people

b. pipe that carries away water

c. people who work for someone

d. something that can solve a problem

e. someone's female child

f. people who have to leave their countries

## Talking in the Apartment

Practice the dialog with a partner.



A. Our business is going down the drain.

B. Changing the business model. Ugh!  
Sometimes I regret Soriya's MBA.

A. And we can't afford these new  
employees.

B. But I don't want to fire Max and Lucie.

A. No, we can't fire them. But maybe we  
need to fire our daughter.

## Check the good ideas.

After changing the business model, your business is losing money quickly. Check (✓) the things that are good to do. Write other ideas on the lines below.

☐ reverse the business model change

☐ stop eating and sleeping

☐ hire more employees

☐ get some legal advice

☐ have nightly conversations

☐ get an MBA quickly

☐ fire your employees

☐ invest more money in the business

☐ think of ways to save money

☐ let the business go down the drain

## Listening

Listen. Check (✓) the correct sentence.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> a. They are very hungry.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. They have no appetite.                | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> a. Her ideas were wonderful.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. Her ideas hurt them.             |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> a. It's succeeding quickly.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. It's failing quickly.              | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> a. They can solve the problem.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. They can't solve the problem.  |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> a. They started with nothing.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. They started with an investment. | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> a. They like the extra workers.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. They can't pay extra workers. |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> a. Things were better before.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. Things were worse before.        | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> a. She is the main problem.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. She is really good at her job.    |

## Pronunciation and Writing

Say the words from the story. Write the number of syllables in each word.  
Underline the stressed syllable.

- |                      |                   |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. solution _____    | 6. forever _____  | 11. conversations _____ |
| 2. supported _____   | 7. ruined _____   | 12. pushes _____        |
| 3. remember _____    | 8. shaking _____  | 13. mutters _____       |
| 4. financially _____ | 9. regret _____   | 14. hurting _____       |
| 5. nervously _____   | 10. angrily _____ | 15. unfortunately _____ |



## What about you?

Circle **Yes** or **No**. Then write questions and ask your partner.

**Yes**   **No**   1. I know a business that is going down the drain.

Do you know a business that is going down the drain?

**Yes**   **No**   2. I remember my life when I first came to the U.S.

**Yes**   **No**   3. I think it's possible for refugees to build good businesses.

**Yes**   **No**   4. I always find solutions to my problems.

**Yes**   **No**   5. I know a person in my workplace who needs to be fired.

## Topics for Discussion or Writing

1. Are some businesses in your community failing? What kinds of businesses are they? Why are they not successful?
2. What things do people do when they are angry and upset? Why do they behave this way?
3. For what reasons do employers usually fire people? Is it sometimes unfair to fire an employee? Why or why not?