

Chapter 9 Rafael's Resignation



Lorenzo tried to convince Rafael not to leave his job. However, Rafael didn't change his mind. "A woman almost died today," he said, "because of me."

"Inez got heatstroke," Lorenzo said. "And that's horrible. But you didn't cause it." Rafael refused to discuss the subject further. As directed, Lorenzo stopped in front of the main office and Rafael got out of the truck. Inside the office, Rafael asked to speak to the director of human resources. A moment later, an assistant led him into Susana Romero's office. "I'm resigning immediately," said Rafael, finding it difficult to look at her. "I suppose I need to sign something."

After Rafael had reported the emergency in the bell pepper field, the news had spread quickly. Susana, of course, had already heard about Inez's heatstroke, and Marta had been in contact with the office throughout the day. Naturally, everyone was happy that Inez's condition was improving. "I know that you're upset after this terrible event, Rafael. But leaving your job is a major decision," said Susana. "I think you need more time to think about it."



"I can't do my job anymore," stated Rafael, trying not to get emotional. "I've put my heart and soul into it for thirty-five years. But I have some physical limitations, you see. My vision is really bad. I need surgery on my eyes—and my procrastinating nearly cost Inez Arroyo her life."

"Then take a medical leave," said Susana. "If you still want to retire after your surgery, then do so. But please don't resign just yet."

Answer the questions.

1. What did Lorenzo try to convince Rafael not to do?
2. What did Rafael refuse to discuss further?
3. Where did Lorenzo stop as directed?
4. Who did Rafael ask to speak to inside the office?
5. Where did an assistant lead him a moment later?
6. What had Rafael reported earlier that day?
7. In what way had the news spread?
8. Who had already heard about Inez's heatstroke?
9. Who had been in contact with the office throughout the day?
10. What was everyone naturally happy about?
11. What did Rafael say that he put into his job for thirty-five years?
12. What did Rafael say that his procrastinating nearly cost?

A Conversation with Human Resources

Practice the dialog with a partner.



- A. I'm resigning immediately.
- B. I know that you're upset after this terrible event, Rafael.
- A. Yes, I am . . . I suppose I need to sign something.
- B. Please, Rafael. Leaving your job is a major decision.
- A. I realize that.
- B. I think you need more time to think about it.
- A. I can't do my job anymore. I've put my heart and soul into it for thirty-five years. But I have some physical limitations, you see. My vision is really bad. I need surgery on my eyes.
- B. Then take a medical leave. If you still want to retire after your surgery, then do so. But please don't resign just yet.

Check the good reasons.

People go to human resources in their workplaces for many reasons. Check (✓) the good reasons to go. Write other ideas on the lines below.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> They are being harassed. | <input type="checkbox"/> They are being discriminated against. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> They have family problems. | <input type="checkbox"/> They think their managers are boring. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> They have physical disabilities. | <input type="checkbox"/> They want to resign from their jobs. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> They want longer lunch breaks. | <input type="checkbox"/> They want a co-worker to get fired. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> They have questions about benefits. | <input type="checkbox"/> They are looking for other jobs. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> They want to retire soon. | <input type="checkbox"/> They want salary increases. |
- _____

Listening

Listen to the sentences. Write the missing words.

1. Lorenzo tried to _____ Rafael not to _____ his job.
2. However, Rafael _____ change his _____.
3. "A _____ almost _____ today," he said, "because of me."
4. Rafael refused to _____ the _____ further.
5. As directed, Lorenzo stopped in front of the _____ office and Rafael got out of the _____.
6. Inside the office, Rafael asked to speak to the _____ of human _____.
7. A moment _____, an assistant _____ him into Susana Romero's office.
8. "I'm _____ immediately," said Rafael, finding it _____ to look at her.
9. After Rafael had reported the _____ in the bell pepper field, the news had _____ quickly.
10. Susana, of course, had already _____ about Inez's _____.

Pronunciation

Check (✓) *d*, *t*, or *id* to show the pronunciation of the final sound in the past-tense verbs below.

- | | d | t | id | | d | t | id |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. refused | _____ | _____ | _____ | 4. reported | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. convinced | _____ | _____ | _____ | 5. supposed | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. changed | _____ | _____ | _____ | 6. directed | _____ | _____ | _____ |

What about you?

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

Yes **No** 1. I sometimes want to leave my job.

Yes **No** 2. I sometimes change my mind.

Yes **No** 3. I sometimes speak to my director of human resources.

Yes **No** 4. I sometimes report emergencies in my home or workplace.

Yes **No** 5. I think leaving a job is a major decision.

Yes **No** 6. I sometimes need more time to think about things.

Yes **No** 7. I know about taking a medical leave.

Topics for Discussion or Writing

1. What are the appropriate steps to take when resigning from a job?
2. What are some major decisions that people must make in their lives? Is it good to take time to think about these decisions? Why or why not?
3. Does procrastinating sometimes cause problems? Give examples of things people can procrastinate about and what the results can be.