

Read the conversations, explain the underlined phrases and answer the questions below.

CONVERSATION 1

Ted: We're moving to Pennsylvania. I just got a good job offer there.

Sam: How does your wife feel about moving.

Ted: Oh, she's against it. She says we will be too far away from family. It will make it hard to take care of her aging mother. And she doesn't want to uproot the four kids. They really love their schools and are doing great here. But I can't be worried about all that. This is my chance to make a little more money. I have to take it.

Sam: It seems to me you are only looking out for number one. You should give some thought to the needs of your wife and family.

Ted: If I don't look out for number one, who will?

Sam: It's not all about you, Ted. You have other people to consider.

1-Do you think Ted is right to move to a higher paying job even though his wife and family are against it?

2-What would you do in this situation?

CONVERSATION 2

Sara: Marcy is really an angel of mercy. She packs sandwiches every day for the homeless people she sees on the way to work. She carries \$10 bills in her car to hand out to people who are begging on the streets. She really has a heart of gold.

Jan: In all honesty, I think Marcy is being foolish. She is very soft-hearted and feels obligated to help everyone, but she is exhausting her financial resources by handing out money every day. I also think it's not safe. Some homeless people are criminals and they watch her hand out all that money. I worry they will follow her home and try to steal from her. Marcy's a real bleeding heart, but she needs to be practical and think about her own future as well.

Sara: Jan, don't be so heartless. People might think you don't give a hoot about the homeless.

1-Is it possible to be too kind, too soft-hearted?

2-What do you think of Jan's comments about Marcy?

3-Do you think Jan has a heart of stone or do you think she might have a point?

CONVERSATION 3

Jenny: I thought you were going to the meeting?

Tim: I am, but it's on hold right now. The Zed Company representatives haven't made it in yet.

We're going to hold off until noon to give them time to arrive. I think something is up though.

These guys have been dragging their feet through all the negotiations. Now they say they will be 2 hours late to the final meeting. I smell a rat. They're up to no good.

Jenny: Have you told your boss your suspicions?

Tim: Frankly, my boss is in over his head. He has never negotiated a major deal like this one before. The company president is breathing down his neck to make this merger happen. It's been a nerve-wracking experience for my boss.

Jenny: It seems unfair of the president to toss your boss into his first big negotiation and just let him sink or swim. Maybe the president should have gotten involved in the negotiations. It seems like the president just threw your boss to the lions.

Tim: I'd better clam up. If I run off at the mouth and it gets back to my boss, my goose will be cooked.

1- Explain what is going on in this conversation.

2- Why does Tim decide to clam up?

3- Have you ever been put in a situation where it was sink or swim? Do you prefer this to having someone micro-manage you?

4- Have you ever been thrown to the lions?

5- Do you think Jenny is sympathetic to the plight of Tim's boss?

6- Do you think Tim should tell his boss his suspicions about the Zed Company representatives?