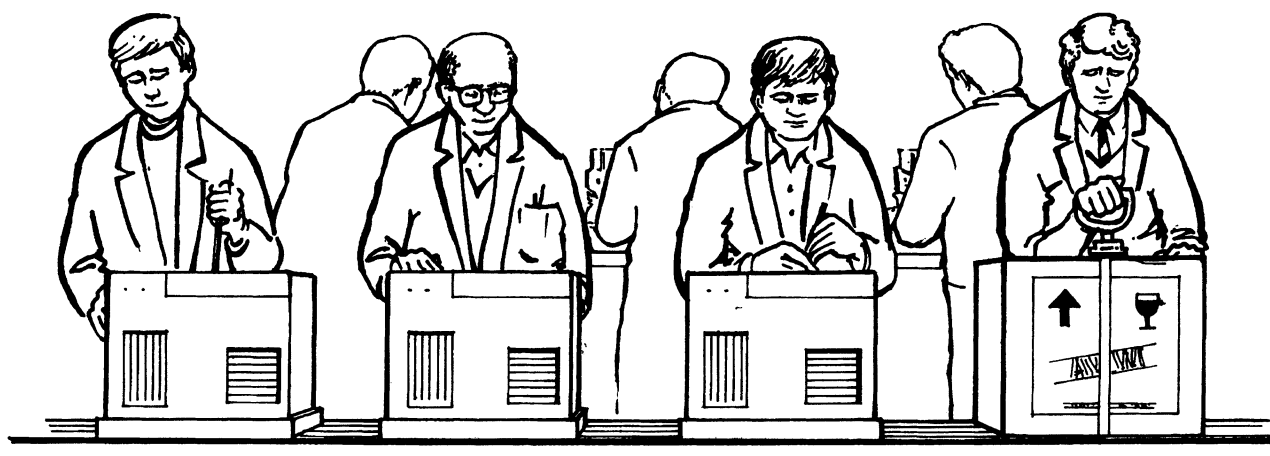


## Problems

- 1 What do you do if your machines keep breaking down?
- 2 What do you do if there are shortages of materials?
- 3 What do you do if there is absenteeism in your works?
- 4 What do you do if your transportation breaks down?
- 5 What do you do if quality falls?
- 6 What do you do if productivity falls?
- 7 What do you do if your supplier's workforce keeps going on strike?
- 8 What do you do if your supplier sends you sub-standard materials?
- 9 What do you do if your workers refuse to do overtime?



## Solutions

- A** redesign manufacturing procedures to improve quality
- B** get replacement deliveries or modify the product
- C** introduce bonus schemes
- D** do more preventive maintenance or hire replacements
- E** try to improve labour relations
- F** use temporary labour or recruit more people and try to improve labour relations
- G** use other materials, get new deliveries or modify existing parts
- H** use alternative suppliers, make sure you have emergency stocks
- I** use alternative methods, for example air instead of sea

# *Production problems – what if?* Worksheet **31**

## ACTIVITY

Pairwork and whole class: listening, speaking

## AIM

To discuss solutions to manufacturing production problems.

## GRAMMAR AND FUNCTIONS

Zero conditional

## VOCABULARY

*to break down, shortage, absenteeism, production quality, productivity, supplier, workforce, to go on strike, sub-standard, overtime, manufacturing procedures, delivery, to modify a product, bonus schemes, preventive maintenance, to hire (machinery), labour relations, temporary labour, to recruit, parts, alternative suppliers, emergency stocks*

## PREPARATION

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student in the class and cut it up as indicated into 'Problems' and 'Solutions'.

## TIME

10–15 minutes

## PROCEDURE

- 1 Tell the students that they are going to talk about problems and solutions in production management.
- 2 Give out the 'Problems' part of the worksheet.
- 3 Ask the students to read the production problems. Deal with any questions of vocabulary or let them check in dictionaries.
- 4 Ask the students to work in pairs to discuss possible solutions.
- 5 When most pairs have finished, give out the 'Solutions' part of the worksheet and ask them to match the solutions to the problems.  
With more advanced groups, instead of giving them the solutions, try reading the list aloud. They must write the appropriate letter (A–I) next to each problem.  
A possible solution is given below.
  - A redesign manufacturing procedures to improve quality (5)
  - B get replacement deliveries or modify the product (8)
  - C introduce bonus schemes (6)
  - D do more preventive maintenance or hire replacements (1)
  - E try to improve labour relations (3)
  - F use temporary labour or recruit more people and try to improve labour relations (9)
  - G use other materials, get new deliveries or modify existing parts (2)
  - H use alternative suppliers, make sure you have emergency stocks (7)
  - I use alternative methods, for example air instead of sea (4)
- 6 Go through the 'correct' answers with the whole class.