

Lesson 65: Corporate Liability

By Xandra

1. Dialogue

First, repeat after your tutor. Then, practice each role.

Kaori and Jack are talking about an oil spill that happened in Santa Barbara, California.

Kaori: My colleagues and I are heading to Santa Barbara Beach on Saturday. We're going to help clean up the oil spill.

Jack: I saw that on the news. Terrible. Exxon Mobil's pipeline broke and it caused a massive oil spill.

Kaori: That's right. Our company president sent out a memo. He's encouraging everyone to volunteer for the cleanup.

Jack: It sounds like he really cares about the environment.

Kaori: He does. He's even providing lunch for the volunteers.

Jack: What do you think is going to happen to Exxon?

Kaori: The company will **be liable for** all the damages caused by the oil spill. Exxon will have to pay a heavy fine for endangering marine life.

Jack: The residents of Santa Barbara will surely boycott the oil company.

Kaori: That's true. But despite all that trouble, Exxon's still doing well in the stock market.

Jack: Unbelievable!

2. Today's Phrase

First, repeat after your tutor. Then, make a few sentences using Today's phrase.

1. The court ruled that he's not **liable for** his wife's debts.
2. My neighbor drove through my fence. He should **be liable for** the repair cost.
3. A boy got hurt while riding a roller coaster. The amusement park **was liable for** his hospital fees.

* **be liable for ~ / ~に対して法的責任がある**

3. Your Task

You are the president of a pharmaceutical company. There are rumors that your company makes unsafe drugs, and those pills cause headaches, dizziness and stomach pain. You are now talking to a TV reporter (=your tutor) and it's your chance to deny the rumors. In a business-like manner, inform the public that your company's medicines are safe. You should mention that your company follows strict rules in producing medicine.

4. Let's Talk

Talk about a Japanese company that was sued for carelessness, negligence or any violation of the law. If you found out your own company had been causing environmental problems, what would you do? Does your company contribute to cleanliness and the preservation of nature?



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5. Today's photo

Describe the photo in your words as precisely as possible.