

# Unit 1 Women in the Workforce



## Vocabulary & Phrases

quit, resign

辞める

architect

建築家

promote

昇進する

there's no way ...

「～する見込みはない」

fiancé (fiancée)

婚約中の男性、  
(婚約中の女性)

It's a ...'s place to ...

「～することは～の仕事である」

maternity leave

出産育児休暇

**These women are answering the following question, “Should women work after marriage?” Read on to find out what they have to say.**

**Chiaki:** Of course they should! Why quit? I've been working at my company for eight years and I'm not going to give up my career if I get married. Since I graduated from university, it's been my dream to become a top architect. I've been promoted to management and there's no way that marriage is going to come before my job.

**Emi:** Well, I'd like to stop working. I've been thinking about it because I'm getting married next month. My fiancé said I can choose, but I think my place is at home. Working during the day and being a housewife at night is like having two jobs. Besides, it's a man's place to earn money for the family.

**Kate:** I think women can work after marriage, but they should stay home while their children are young. I took maternity leave from just before my daughter's birth until she was one. After that, I worked for three months, but then resigned. I'll probably start working again when she goes to school.

## Comprehension Questions

1. Is Chiaki married?
2. What does Emi's fiancé think about women working?
3. Is Kate still on maternity leave?



## Discussion Language and Skills

### Disagreeing Politely — 失礼にならないよう反対意見を言う

意見に賛成するのは比較的易しく表現できます。

“I think so too.” 「そう思います」 “I agree (with you).” 「私もそう思います」 “That's true.” 「その通りです」

失礼にならないように反対意見を言う時は “you” を使った表現は避けたほうが無難です。以下の表現は避けましょう。

“You're wrong!” 「あなたは間違っている」

“You don't know what you're talking about.” 「あなたは自分が何を言ってるかわかっていない」

反対意見を述べる前に、ためらっている様子が伝わるようなフレーズを使いましょう。これによって丁寧な印象になります。

“Um ... well ... I think the red one is better than the blue.” 「うーん、えーっと赤のは青のより良いと思う」

“Uh ... I’m not sure if that is such a good idea.” 「うーん、それは良い考えといえるでしょうか」

“Hmm ... I don’t really know if I agree with that.” 「ふむ、それに賛成していいかどうかわからないんですが」

また、最初に相手の意見を認めただうえで、自分の意見を付け加えると失礼になるのを避けられます。

“Yes, I see your point, but I think smoking is unhealthy.” 「そう、あなたのおっしゃることはわかります。ですが、喫煙は体に悪いですよ」

“Yeah, that’s true but I believe money is also important.” 「ええそれは確かにそうですが、お金も大切だと思いますよ」

### Exercise One

Write down two arguments for and against the following statement:

e.g. **“Women can do the same job as men.”**

For .....

Against .....

Now tell your partner about your arguments.

### Exercise Two

Choose one of your partner’s arguments from Exercise One. Write down ways to do the following:

1. Agree with him/her.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Disagree with him/her politely.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Show you understand the point, but then disagree.  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Role Play

There are two junior staff members at your company, a man and a woman. They both have the same educational background, qualifications and skills but only one can be promoted. You must decide which would be the best choice for the position. Remember to be polite when you disagree!

あなたの会社に男性と女性の二人の若手社員がいます。彼らの学歴や資格、技能は同じですが昇格できるのは一人だけです。あなたは新しい役職にふさわしい一人を選ばなくてははいけません。反対意見を言う時は失礼にならないよう気をつけてください。

The teacher will assign one of the following roles to you.

A: Personnel manager: You want to promote the woman.

B: Section manager: You want to promote the man.