

Elementary - I need an assistant! (B0004)

A: ...like I told you before, we just don't have the resources to hire you an assistant.

B: I understand that, but the fact is we're understaffed.

A: The timing is just not right. The economy is bad, and it's too risky to take on new staff.

B: Yeah, I guess you're right.... here's an idea, what if we hire an intern? She would take some of the weight off my shoulders.

A: She?

B: Yeah, you know, a recent graduate. She could give me a hand with some of these projects and we could keep our costs down.

A: That sounds reasonable... let me see what I can do.

A: Tony, I'd like to introduce you to your new assistant.

B: OK, great! Let's meet her!

C: Hi, I'm Adam.

B: Oh... hi... I'm Tony...

Key Vocabulary

resources

Noun (plural)

money

understaffed

Adjective

not enough people to do the job

the timing is just not right

Phrase

it is not a good time now

weight off my shoulders	<i>Phrase</i>	remove pressure or stress
give me a hand	<i>Phrase</i>	help
that sounds rea- sonable	<i>Phrase</i>	is OK

Supplementary Vocabulary

recruit	<i>Verb, In- finitive</i>	hire
overworked	<i>Adjective</i>	working too much
short staffed	<i>Adjective</i>	not enough people to do the job
cut costs	<i>Phrase</i>	reduce spending
overstaffed	<i>Adjective</i>	having too many em- ployees