

**Toyota closes elevators to save money**

The car company Toyota is shutting down two elevators at its global headquarters to save money. The world's largest automaker said on Thursday it will shut down two of eight elevators at its main Tokyo office. This is to save electricity and to cut down on the costs of operating the building. One reason for this new move is the strengthening Japanese yen. The yen has become much stronger since the UK voted to leave the EU on June the 23rd. One dollar bought nearly 120 yen in January; now it buys just above 100. A stronger yen means Toyota cars sold overseas are more expensive and profits go down. Toyota's profit for the year ending March 2016 was a record ¥2.31 trillion, which is around \$23 billion.

A Toyota spokeswoman said the company decided to shut down the elevators several weeks ago because of the rising yen. The company is also adjusting the temperature of air conditioners to save money. The spokeswoman said Toyota took similar cost-cutting measures after the financial crisis that happened in September 2008. That also made the yen strengthen against the dollar. The spokeswoman said: "These policies are not new." She added: "The key objective for the stoppage of elevators specifically is to raise awareness amongst employees, and to remind them of the commitment that Toyota has towards the idea of increasing competitiveness through staying lean and reducing waste."



**Ex.1 Match these words from the two columns to form collocations as in the text:**

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. to save        | awareness       |
| 2. to cut down on | competitiveness |
| 3. to operate     | measures        |
| 4. to adjust      | money           |
| 5. to take        | the building    |
| 6. to raise       | the costs       |
| 7. to increase    | the temperature |
| 8. to reduce      | waste           |

**Ex.2 Match the Polish expressions to their English equivalents from the text:**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>siedziba główna</li><li>wytwórca samochodów</li><li>zyski</li><li>rzeczniczka</li><li>cięcie kosztów</li><li>cel</li><li>świadomość</li><li>zobowiązanie</li></ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>automaker</li><li>awareness</li><li>commitment</li><li>cost-cutting</li><li>headquarters</li><li>objective</li><li>profits</li><li>spokeswoman</li></ul>
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**Ex.3 Say these sentences in English using some expressions from the previous exercise:**

- Musimy podjąć stosowne (*appropriate*) środki w celu obniżenia kosztów.
- Naszym celem jest zwiększyć konkurencyjność i zyski.
- Chcemy uświadomić pracownikom, że warto (*it is worth*) ograniczać odpady.

***I know English idioms!***

*In today's text we can read about the importance of reducing waste. So it might be interesting to mention this "waste"-related idiom:*

- to treat sb like dirt (= *treat badly, with no respect, traktować jak śmiecia*)
- He worked with JP Morgan from 1985 to 1998, but was treated like dirt, as were most other employees in his department.

***Phrasals, phrasals...***

This is to save electricity and to cut down on the costs of operating the building. - *reads a sentence from this lesson's text. The fragment underlined in it is a very common phrasal verb which means the same as "to reduce" (obniżyć, ograniczyć, zredukować). Let's see it in other contexts:*

- I'm trying to cut down on caffeine. 5 coffees a day is far too many!
- She used to work 50 hours a week, but recently she's cut down on it.

*And what have you cut down on recently or are you planning to cut down on? ☺*

***Grammar corner***

*And today a little exercise on prepositions. Complete this first paragraph of the reading text with these little words: above / around / at / down / for / in / on. You may need to use each of them several times.*

The car company Toyota is shutting \_\_\_\_\_ two elevators at its global headquarters to save money. The world's largest automaker said \_\_\_\_\_ Thursday it will shut \_\_\_\_\_ two of eight elevators \_\_\_\_\_ its main Tokyo office. This is to save electricity and to cut down \_\_\_\_\_ the costs of operating the building. One reason \_\_\_\_\_ this new move is the strengthening Japanese yen. The yen has become much stronger since the UK voted to leave the EU \_\_\_\_\_ June the 23rd. One dollar bought nearly 120 yen \_\_\_\_\_ January; now it buys just \_\_\_\_\_ 100. A stronger yen means Toyota cars sold overseas are more expensive and profits go \_\_\_\_\_. Toyota's profit for the year ending March 2016 was a record ¥2.31 trillion, which is \_\_\_\_\_ \$23 billion.

GLOSSARY	
to close	zamykać
elevator	winda
to save	oszczędzać
to shut down	zamknąć
headquarters	siedziba główna
largest	największy
automaker	producent samochodów
main	główny
electricity	energia elektryczna
to cut down on	ograniczyć
to operate	tu: użytkować
building	budynek
reason	powód
move	posunięcie
strengthening	umacniający się
to vote	głosować
overseas	za granicą
profits	zyski
to go down	spadać, maleć
record	rekordowy
spokeswoman	rzeczniczka prasowa
rising	wzrastający
to adjust	dostosowywać
air conditioner	klimatyzator
similar	podobny
cost-cutting measures	sposoby cięcia kosztów
financial crisis	kryzys finansowy
to happen	wydarzyć się
policy	polityka
key	kluczowy
objective	cel
stoppage	zatrzymanie
specifically	konkretnie
to raise awareness	uświadomić
amongst	pośród
to remind	przypomnieć
commitment	zobowiązanie
towards	wobec
increasing	wzrastający
competitiveness	konkurencyjność
lean	chudy, tu: oszczędny
to reduce	ograniczać
waste	odpady

## ANSWER KEY

### Ex.1

1. to save money
2. to cut down on the costs
3. to operate the building
4. to adjust the temperature
5. to take measures
6. to raise awareness
7. to increase competitiveness
8. to reduce waste

### Ex.2

1. headquarters
2. automaker
3. profits
4. spokeswoman
5. cost-cutting
6. objective
7. awareness
8. commitment

### Ex.3.

1. We have/need to take appropriate measures to cut down on costs.
2. Our aim is to increase competitiveness and profits.
3. We want to raise our employees' awareness that it is worth reducing waste.

### Grammar corner

Check your answers in the original text of the lesson.