The Story of Unemployment: Lesson 2 Transcript

Stories about Cyclical Unemployment

Christine’s Story:

I, for the moment, am cyclically unemployed.

I used to work at the local amusement park in marketing. Would you believe I had to ride the roller coaster once a day to make sure I understood the business! It was such a great job.

But then the economy started to slow down, and you know one of the first things people do when they’re nervous about their jobs? They cut out fun things—like trips to the amusement park.

I was laid off about a year ago, and I’ve been looking for another marketing job ever since. It’s a tough field right now because there are so many of us looking for work. My family can’t afford a trip to the amusement park right now either.

I guess I’ll just have to wait out this downturn. Once the economy picks up, though, the park crowds will be back, and hopefully I’ll be back to riding the roller coaster every day.

That’s my unemployment story.

Violet’s Story:

So I was always into building things. For a little while, I was building things for a living. For now though, that’s not the case.

In high school, I took all the construction related courses I could and, after graduation, I started working with a friend’s dad, who’s a carpenter. From there, I got a job with a national company—the kind that builds those huge subdivisions. It was a fun job. I was outside; I got to play with power tools—no worries!

But then there were big worries with the whole housing industry. Everybody stopped building, not just the huge subdivisions, but houses in general. I was one of many people laid off.

I had to move back in with my parents. Right now I’m applying for any construction related job I can find.

Of course, when the economy picks up and people start feeling more secure about their jobs, they’ll start buying houses again, and I’ll finally be back to work.

That’s my unemployment story.

Pam’s Story:

I am a little too familiar with cyclical unemployment.

My first job out of high school was in car sales. Now I’ve been in, out, and back in car sales more times than I can count. Every time there’s a recession, people are less interested in buying expensive things—like new cars—and I get laid off.

I tried sales at a beach-side resort, but lost that job for basically the same reason—people didn’t have the extra money to spend at the beach. My first love is cars, though, so I keep going back to car sales and I keep getting laid off. I guess it’s just life, and since my husband’s job is pretty stable, I don’t worry about it too much.
I actually have an interview at a dealer next week, but I know my chances of getting a job are pretty slim until the economy turns around.

That’s my unemployment story.