

Carlos Ghosn to step down as Nissan boss

25th February, 2017



Carlos Ghosn, one of the best-known leaders in the automotive industry, has announced that he will step down as Nissan Motor's president and CEO, effective April 1.

The hugely successful Mr Ghosn will remain with the company as chairman to oversee a wider group of carmakers that, in addition to Nissan, includes France's Renault and Japan's Mitsubishi Motors. Ghosn told reporters: "I'm stepping down as the CEO because it's the right moment and I have the right team. I think after 16 years as CEO and 18 years taking care of Nissan, I can say today that what I can bring to Nissan, I have already brought." He added: "Nissan is profitable, financially healthy, with a clear strategy."

Carlos Ghosn joined Nissan as Chief Operating Officer (COO) in 1999, after Renault purchased a stake in the Japanese automaker. He became president in 2000 and was named CEO the following year. He is credited with turning around Nissan by producing attractive new cars and models and cutting costs. His cost-cutting strategies earned him the nickname "The Cost Killer". Following the turnaround of Nissan, Fortune magazine awarded him Asia Businessman of the Year in 2002. A year later, the magazine named him as one of the 10 most powerful people in business outside the USA. He became a celebrity in Japan, where his life story has been depicted in a manga comic book.

Sources: nikkei.com / japantimes.co.jp / motorauthority.com / Wikipedia.org

Writing

A CEO is the most important person in the company. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

best / automotive industry / successful / stepping down / profitable / healthy / strategy / stake / president / credited / cost-cutting / nickname / turnaround / magazine / manga

True / False

- Carlos Ghosn is the best known leader in the automotive industry. T / F
- Mr Ghosn will step down as Nissan CEO at the end of this year. T / F
- Mr Ghosn will take up a new position looking after three car makers. T / F
- Mr Ghosn said Nissan needs a much clearer strategy to be profitable. T / F
- Mr Ghosn joined Nissan last century. T / F
- Mr Ghosn had the nickname 'The Cost Killer'. T / F
- Fortune magazine name Ghosn Asian Businessman of the Year in 2012. T / F
- In Japan, there is a manga comic book on Mr Ghosn's life story. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. announced | a. stay |
| 2. effective | b. gave |
| 3. remain | c. resigning |
| 4. stepping down | d. share |
| 5. healthy | e. appointed |
| 6. stake | f. made public |
| 7. named | g. portrayed |
| 8. earned | h. in good shape |
| 9. awarded | i. in force |
| 10. depicted | j. gained |

Discussion – Student A

- What business leaders do you know?
- What do you know about Carlos Ghosn?
- What does it take to become a CEO?
- Why are Japanese cars so popular?
- What's the difference between a CEO and a chairman?
- How important is the CEO in a company?
- What would it be like to be CEO of a car-making giant?
- What advice do you have for Carlos Ghosn?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. one of the best-known leaders in the | a. celebrity in Japan |
| 2. hugely | b. moment |
| 3. oversee a | c. strategy |
| 4. it's the right | d. successful |
| 5. a clear | e. turning around Nissan |
| 6. Renault purchased | f. in a manga comic |
| 7. He is credited with | g. automotive industry |
| 8. earned him the nickname | h. a stake |
| 9. He became a | i. "The Cost Killer" |
| 10. his life story has been depicted | j. wider group of carmakers |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about Nissan?
- What's the difference between a CEO and a COO?
- How do you turn around a car company and turn losses into profits?
- Are men or women better CEOs?
- Who is your favourite business leader?
- What kind of CEO would you be?
- What questions would you like to ask Carlos Ghosn?

Spelling

- in the veioiutamt industry
- nuodanecn that he will step down
- uhyelg successful
- ecisnudl France's Renault
- Nissan is aretoplibf
- a clear tsygrate
- after Renault repscahud a stake
- producing taettarivc new cars
- He is rtdicdee with turning around Nissan
- the nmknaeic "The Cost Killer"
- He became a yceetilbr in Japan
- cipdtdee in a manga comic book

Answers – Synonym Match

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. f | 2. i | 3. a | 4. c | 5. h |
| 6. d | 7. e | 8. j | 9. b | 10. g |

Role Play

Role A – A Sense of Humour

You think a sense of humour is the thing most needed by CEOs. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): fearlessness, likeability or luck.

Role B – Fearlessness

You think fearlessness is the thing most needed by CEOs. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): a sense of humour, likeability or luck.

Role C – Likeability

You think likeability is the thing most needed by CEOs. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): fearlessness, a sense of humour or luck.

Role D – Luck

You think luck is the thing most needed by CEOs. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): fearlessness, likeability or a sense of humour.

Speaking – CEO Skills

Rank these with your partner. Put the things most needed by a company CEO at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| • sense of humour | • time management skills |
| • intelligence | • likeability |
| • discipline | • qualifications |
| • fearlessness | • luck |

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | F | b | F | c | T | d | F | e | T | f | T | g | F | h | T |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.