

# Big Strike at a Walmart Factory

More than 10,000 workers at an electronics factory went on strike on April 17, 2005. The factory is owned by a Japanese company, and it makes *products* for Walmart. Most of the workers there are women. They wanted to *organize* a union.



The police came and stopped the striking workers from leaving the factory. They believed the workers would make other people in the city go on strike, too. This was the fourth or fifth strike at the factory since it opened in 1987.

The strike before this one started when a manager *attacked* some workers. The workers made *demands* to the company. The company agreed to the demands. Then, the factory got a new manager, who did not give the workers their demands. The new manager fired the people who helped organize the strike. The 2005 strike started when the managers sent a *threatening* letter to the workers.

The law says it's legal to have a union. But not many companies in this city have one. The companies, government, and police make it difficult for workers to organize a union.

## Vocabulary

1. *product* – noun - Something that a company makes to sell. “Our store sells many products from Mexico and China.”
2. *organize* – verb – To help make something big happen. Or to help start a union. “Jenny organized her sister's wedding.” “Mary organized a union at her office.”
3. *attack* – verb – Start fighting someone. “Our dog attacked the mailman last month.”
4. *demands* – noun – What you need to have. “We have one demand: To get a raise in 2006.”
5. *threatening* – adjective – Makes you afraid. “I got a threatening voicemail from my ex-wife today.”

## Vocabulary Practice

1. __ product	A. What you need.
2. __ organize	B. Start fighting someone.
4. __ attack	C. Something that a company makes to sell.
5. __ demands	D. When people stop working to get their demands.
6. __ threatening	E. To help make something big happen.
7. __ _____	F. Makes you afraid.

## Questions

1. Why did the workers go on strike?
2. Was this the first time workers at this factory went on strike?
3. The story doesn't say where the factory is. Where do you think it is? Why?
4. Do the workers at the factory need a union? Why?
5. Do you know any stories like this from your country?