
Oprah Winfrey to leave WeightWatchers board, a blow as weight-loss drugs surge

Description

Oprah Winfrey has decided to leave the board of WeightWatchers. She had been part of the board for eight years. This news has hit the company as it is facing some financial problems. It is also dealing with competition from weight-loss medicines.

Winfrey won't remain a part of the board after May. This was confirmed through a company statement. However, she has said that she will still work with them. Her work will be focused on promoting awareness about obesity being a long-term condition. Also, she will work towards reducing the stigma attached to it and supporting health equality.

After this news, the share prices of the company (now known as WW International) dropped by over a quarter.

Weight loss firms are dealing with a lot of competition nowadays. Weight-loss injections like Ozempic, Wegovy and Mounjaro have become very popular worldwide.

Recently, WeightWatchers' profits have taken a hit. According to a financial report, the company lost over \$88 million in 2023. This loss was twice as high as their loss the previous year.

At the same time, a boom has begun in the market for weight-loss medicines. These medicines have shown to be effective for obesity, diabetes, and heart-related problems. Thanks to social media promotions, more people are using these medicines. However, some have reported side effects like vomiting, diarrhea, and rapid heartbeats.

Despite being useful for those dealing with obesity and long-term conditions, these medicines do pose issues for people with eating disorders or those who are unhappy with their body shape, but aren't overweight.

In the past, Winfrey has said that she uses weight-loss medicine suggested by her doctor. However, she did not mention the name of the drug.

In 2023, WeightWatchers bought the health company Sequence. They also introduced WeightWatchers Clinic, which allows members to get a prescription for weight-loss medicines from doctors.

In 2015, when Winfrey joined WeightWatchers, she bought a 10% share of the company for \$43 million. At that time, the company was losing subscribers. It was not able to compete with fitness apps and dieting apps.

When Winfrey joined WeightWatchers, she claimed to have lost 40 pounds through the program. The star has publicly spoken about her past struggles with her body and weight. Her website also mentions that she has tried several diet schemes.



This Wednesday, Winfrey announced that she will donate her shares in the company to the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington.

Finally, the board of WeightWatchers showed support and thanked Winfrey for her contribution to the company.

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Vocabulary List:

1. **Resignation** // (noun): The action of resigning from a job or position.
2. **Financial problems** // (noun): Difficulties related to money or finances.
3. **Competition** // (noun): The activity or condition of competing against others.
4. **Awareness** // (noun): Knowledge or perception of a situation or fact.
5. **Stigma** // (noun): A mark of disgrace or shame associated with a particular circumstance.
6. **Equality** // (noun): The state of being equal especially in status rights or opportunities.

Vocabulary quizzes



Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which term describes a consistent and unchanging trend?
Option: Surge
Option: Steady
Option: Rebound
Option: Anticipated

2. What do businesses engage in to gain market share?
Option: Awareness
Option: Resignation
Option: Competition
Option: Equality

3. Who provides capital in expectation of future returns?
Option: Artificial Intelligence
Option: Investors
Option: Pharmacist
Option: Reserve Funds

4. What is evaluated to assess how well an entity has done?
Option: Shares
Option: Performance
Option: Server
Option: Robust

5. What is a malicious attempt to disrupt digital operations?
Option: Insurance Firms
Option: Robust
Option: Cyberattack
Option: Key

6. Which technology simulates human intelligence processes?
Option: Anticipated
Option: Insurance Firms
Option: Artificial Intelligence
Option: Pharmacist

7. What are companies controlled by another company?
Option: Subsidiaries
Option: Surge
Option: Inflation

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Option: Attractive

8. What fosters understanding and recognition of a situation?

Option: Attractive

Option: Awareness

Option: Pharmacist

Option: Investigation

9. What represents ownership in a corporation?

Option: Server

Option: Shares

Option: Investors

Option: Rebound

10. Which financial buffer is set aside for emergencies or investments?

Option: Rebound

Option: Remarkably

Option: Reserve Funds

Option: Steady

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. A rise in consumer prices is often an _____ of inflation.

12. Persistent overspending can lead to serious _____.

13. Effective policies are needed to help _____ the economy during turbulent times.

14. The company reported a _____ increase in profits this quarter.

15. The launch of the new product was highly _____ by industry analysts.

16. A _____ cybersecurity system is essential to protect sensitive information.

17. After a period of decline the company's stock price began to _____.

18. The project was completed on time and _____ under budget.

19. A _____ dispenses medication and provides health advice to patients.

20. A company's data is stored and managed on a central _____.



Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. Rising prices reduce the purchasing power of a currency.
22. Negative stereotypes can create a sense of shame or disgrace.
23. Fairness and justice in distributing resources and opportunities.
24. Companies that provide financial protection through policies.
25. A sudden and substantial increase in activity or value.
26. Individuals or firms that facilitate buying and selling on behalf of clients.
27. Essential or crucial to understanding or achieving something.
28. The process of looking closely at a situation or person to gain information.
29. Companies controlled by another business entity.
30. The evaluation of how effectively a task or objective is accomplished.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Steady 2. Competition 3. Investors 4. Performance 5. Cyberattack 6. Artificial Intelligence 7. Subsidiaries 8. Awareness 9. Shares 10. Reserve Funds

Gap-Fill: 11. Indicator 12. Financial problems 13. Stabilize 14. Whopping 15. Anticipated 16. Robust 17. Rebound 18. Remarkably 19. Pharmacist 20. Server

Matching sentence: 1. Inflation 2. Stigma 3. Equality 4. Insurance Firms 5. Surge 6. Brokers 7. Key 8. Investigation 9. Subsidiaries 10. Performance

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL3

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