

## **APPENDIX 2: Example of the new learning materials (Level 7 Business curriculum).**

Level 7

11



**Hypothetical Situations**

**That sounds plausible  
enough “Speculating”**

## Authentic Text

- 1) Do you think aliens have visited Earth? Why or why not?
- 2) Do you think governments can be trusted to tell the truth? Explain your answer.

## → Target Language

**Read the dialogue with your instructor. You will be Yumi. What do you think the meeting is about?**

*[Andrew and Yumi are chatting in the hall about a meeting that was called by their CEO. No one knows exactly why they are there.]*

**Andrew :** So, what do you think this is all about?

**Yumi :** Well, I talked to Emily and she thinks they're going to announce a takeover.

**Andrew :** What? That doesn't make any sense. We're doing great, so why would we be taken over?

**Yumi :** No, it's the other way around! The word is we are going to take over Swilly Associates.

**Andrew :** Oh, that sounds more plausible.

**Yumi :** Yeah, it sounds like they're in big trouble. I talked to one of their salesmen yesterday. He said that he wasn't sure about his future, and that he was starting to look around for other things.

**Andrew :** Really? Sounds pretty serious. Well, I guess that dispels Graham's theory.

**Yumi :** What was that?

**Andrew :** That we were all going to lose our bonuses, maybe even our jobs.

**Yumi :** That's ridiculous, why did he think that?

**Andrew :** You know Graham, total pessimist!

**Yumi :** That's true.

**Andrew :** But... what about the rumors about the CEO?

**Yumi :** What rumors?

**Andrew :** I heard he was going to leave the company, move on to greener pastures or something.

**Yumi :** Really?

**Andrew :** Yeah, apparently Dave in IT saw a "For Sale" sign up in his front yard.

**Yumi :** Wow! Well, I guess he's been with the company for quite a while.

**Andrew :** Yeah, true enough....

**Yumi :** Anyway, it starts at four, so I guess we won't have to wait too much longer.

## → Practice

**A** Look at these phrases for passing on information. Which ones do you use when you want to credit a specific person? Which ones do you use when you don't remember where you heard something or just want to show that several people feel that way?

Useful phrases

- **It's just what everyone's saying.**
- **I talked to \_\_\_\_\_ and he/she thinks...**
- **Everyone seems to think...**
- **According to...**
- **I heard from...**
- **The word is...**

Your CEO has announced a surprise meeting this afternoon. There is lots of speculation flying around. Tell your coworker some of the things you've heard.

**1** The CEO is quitting.



Everyone

**2** The company is going bankrupt.



Jake

**3** We're getting taken over.



Sally

**4** The head of marketing is getting married to her assistant Mark.



Claudia

**5** We're all going to be fired.



Everyone

### Example

*Coworker:* What do you think it's all about?

*You:* Well, the word is the CEO's quitting.

*Coworker:* Really? Where did you hear that?

*You:* It's just what everyone's saying.

**B** Everybody has been gathered in the courtyard outside your office for a special announcement. Your coworkers are speculating about why you're there. Respond to their ideas. If you don't really believe the rumor, find out where your coworker got their information and explain why you disagree.

Useful phrases

- **I can't believe that.**
- **I guess that's possible.**
- **Where'd you hear that?**
- **That doesn't make any sense.**
- **Are you sure about that?**
- **That sounds plausible enough.**
- **That's ridiculous!**

### Example

*You:* What do you think is going on?

*Coworker:* Apparently we're all going to be put in quarantine.

*You:* What? That's crazy! Where'd you hear that?

*Coworker:* I heard they found some powder in a letter in the mailroom. I bet it's anthrax. And Steve has been coughing a lot lately.

*You:* That doesn't mean we've all been poisoned. Plus, why would they call us into a public space like this?

**C** Look at these different situations. What do you think could be the reason behind them? Use the possibilities listed or some of your own. Speculate with your coworker.

### Example

→ Strange lights were seen above the city last night.

**Possible cause**

└ The air force is carrying out exercises in the area.

*You :*

**Did you see those strange lights last night?**

*Coworker :* Yeah! According to Mike they're UFOs. Apparently it's a pretty regular occurrence around here.

*You :*

**I can't believe that. It's probably some sort of military exercise.**

→ ① The quarterly budget report meeting has been canceled.

**Possible cause**

└ Profits are down so much that they don't want to reveal them to the staff.

→ ② Share prices have sky-rocketed in the last few days.

**Possible cause**

└ One of your competitors is about to go bankrupt.

→ ③ One of your coworkers was suddenly fired this afternoon.

**Possible cause**

└ They lied on their resume when they got hired.

## → Application ←role-play

Try a role-play with your instructor. You will be role A.

**A** Yesterday afternoon, your department manager jumped out of her chair, shouted "I'VE HAD ENOUGH!", stormed out of the office, and has not been seen since. You know that departmental performance has been low this year and she had an argument with another manager about section budget cuts this morning. Speculate with your coworker what might be the reason for her outburst, and where you think she might be.

**B** There was a commotion in one of the other departments yesterday, and you saw one of the department managers leaving the office in tears. You are chatting to one of your friends in that department. Find out what they think the problem is.