

Demasiado bueno para ser cierto

El Sr. Smith y el Sr. Petersen estaban en una seria conversación en la oficina del gerente. Pidieron a la secretaria que nadie los molestara.



Yo quiero hablarle acerca de este señor Roberts. ¿Hace cuánto tiempo que trabaja con nosotros?



Él trabaja con nosotros desde hace unos ocho años.



¿Y cuánto tiempo hace que está en el departamento de mercadeo?



Sólo desde el año pasado. Él era asistente de Jim Soames antes de eso. Es un empleado muy fiel y capaz. Ojalá tuviéramos más como él.



Pues, si esa es su opinión, tengo algo sorprendente que informarle. Roberts está trabajando en sociedad con uno de nuestros principales rivales en el mercado de cosméticos. Desde hace casi ocho años estamos perdiendo terreno en el mercado debido a los buenos servicios de Roberts... ¡a la otra firma!



¿Quiere usted decir que mientras nosotros pagábamos a Roberts, esta otra gente se beneficiaba a nuestra costa?



Eso es exactamente lo que quiero decir, excepto que ellos también pagaban a Roberts. Él ha estado cobrando sueldos de ambos lados, pero ha usado nuestras instalaciones, nuestros teléfonos, nuestra información, incluso nuestros empleados, para servir a esta otra firma. En otras palabras, Roberts es lo que podríamos llamar un espía corporativo.



¡Pero no lo puedo creer! ¿Qué es lo que lo hace sospechoso? ¿Cómo lo averiguó?



Muy sencillo. Ya hace varios meses que vengo notando que las cosas no andan tan bien como deberían. De una u otra manera hemos sido golpeados constantemente por Hogg & Co. En casi todos nuestros nuevos productos. Incluso parecían crear nuestra propia campaña de publicidad antes de que pudiéramos lanzarla. Era evidente. La información se estaba escapando y había alguien importante detrás de la fuga. Comencé a observar cuidadosamente a Roberts. Era demasiado perfecto, demasiado puntual, demasiado dispuesto a trabajar hasta tarde. Este año, ¡incluso se le olvidó tomar vacaciones!

Unit 28

Too good to be true

Mr. Smith and Mr. Petersen were in a deep conversation in the manager's office. They asked the secretary not to let anyone disturb them.



I want to talk to you about this man. Roberts. How long has he been working for us?



He's been working for us for about eight years now.



And how long has he been in the marketing department?



Only since last year. He was Jim Soame's assistant before that. He's a very capable and faithful employee. I wish we had more like him.



Well, if that's how you feel, I've got some surprising news for you. Roberts is working in connection with one of our top rivals in the cosmetics market. For almost eight years now, we've been losing ground in this market due to Robert's good services... to the other company!



You mean to say that while we've been paying Roberts, these other people have been profiting at our expense?



That's exactly what I mean except that they have been paying Roberts too. He has been collecting salaries from both sides but has used our premises, our telephones, our information, and even our employees to serve this other operation. In other words, Roberts is what we might call a corporate spy.



But I can't believe it! What makes you suspect him? How did you find out?



Very simple. For several months now, I've been noticing that things weren't working out as well as they should have been. Somehow, we were being continually beaten to the market by Hogg & Co., with almost every one of our products. They even seemed to think out our publicity lines before we even managed to launch our campaigns. It was obvious. Information was leaking out and there was someone important behind the lead. I began to watch Roberts carefully... he was too perfect, too punctual, too willing to work late. This year, he even forgot to take his vacation!

New Vocabulary

Nouns

- Campaigns
- Cosmetics
- Markets
- Premises
- Salaries

Verbs

- Collect
- Leak
- Lose
- Pay
- Seem

Adjectives

- Capable
- Faithful

Adverbs

- Continually
- Exactly

Expressions

- At our expense
- Too perfect



Now, something important!

Past Perfect

The **Past Perfect** expresses the idea that something occurred before another action in the past. It can also show that something happened before a specific time in the past.

I did not have any money because I had lost my wallet.

We use the **Past Perfect** to show that something started in the past and continued up until another action in the past.

By the time Alex finished his studies, he had been in London for over eight years.

Unlike with the Present Perfect, it is possible to use specific time words or phrases with the **Past Perfect**. Although this is possible, it is usually not necessary.

She had visited her Japanese relatives once in 1993 before she moved in with them in 1996.

Ref

For better reference, see **Finding Out About Grammar Book**, Unit 12, page 177.

