

# Speculation and deduction

COMMUNICATION

LEVEL  
Advanced

NUMBER  
C1\_1052X\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English

lingoda



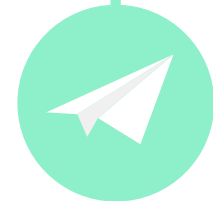


## Goals

- Can recognise and recall specific phrases and vocabulary for speculating and deducing.
- Can use appropriate phrases to speculate and deduce in a business context.



I **daresay** the company will be expanding soon. We're making a lot of profit and there's lots of work to be done, so I **guess** we will need more employees. If not, we're **bound to** end up with a backlog of work. I **bet** that would be problematic.





## Speculation and deduction



What does it mean to speculate?  
How many synonyms for this  
word can you think of?



## The big difference

**What's the difference  
between speculation  
and deduction?  
Can you give an  
example of each?**



Can you make a sentence with each of these words?



## I daresay

We use the phrase **I daresay** to express the belief that something is **likely** or **probable**.



I **daresay** we'll have to move the event indoors; it looks like it's going to rain.

## to be bound

We use the expression **to be bound + verb infinitive** to describe something that is **likely** or **probable**.



They **are bound to move** to a bigger office now that the company has far more employees.



Now that I've missed the train, **I'm bound to be** late for work.





## New words

to infer

I **inferred** by his surprised look that he hadn't known about the trouble they'd been having.



verdict

The board members finally reached a **verdict**: the company needed to downsize.



foreseeable

The project has been abandoned for the **foreseeable** future; it was going to cost too much money and there is no budget for it.



to ruminate

Don't **ruminate** on it. There's nothing more you can do now and it's a shame to spend so much time thinking about something you can't change.



in all likelihood



I invited her, but **in all likelihood** she won't come because she doesn't like to socialise much.

## to speculate

We might **speculate** about the reasons why someone did something. Or why something happened. Or even about what the weather might be like in a few months' time!



When we **speculate**, we make predictions or guesses, but we don't have firm evidence for these speculations. Speculating is a way of trying to find an explanation or a reason for something, but we are mostly having to rely on guesswork to form this explanation or reason.



## Speculation



We can speculate about the past, the present or the future!



**Let's practise!**

**Look at the picture below and answer the questions**  
**Be imaginative!**



**1**

Speculate about what might have happened before the picture was taken.

**2**

Speculate about what is happening now.

**3**

Speculate about what might happen in the future.



## A little reminder

Remember that when we speculate, we are mostly guessing. We don't have any evidence for our speculations!



## Take one

Look at the people in the pictures below. You know nothing about them but you can still speculate about them.  
What do they do? Where do they work? Do they like their jobs?



*I guess...*



*I wonder...*



## Take two

**Look again at the people in the pictures below.  
Now speculate about their lives in the past, and what they will  
do in the future!**



*I daresay...*



*I imagine...*



## deduction

Deduction is different to speculation, since when we deduce something we normally have **more evidence** for the statement we are making. Deduction is a **process of reasoning**: using logic to reach a certain conclusion.

We deduce things about someone or something using logic that is evidence based. For example, the police use deduction when they make an arrest based on facts or strong evidence.



## Dialogue

**Read the following dialogue. Can you spot any deductions?**



The turnover for this month is more than double that of the previous month. We also implemented the new marketing strategy this month, with numerous campaigns aimed at our different target groups.

There seems to be a clear correlation here. The marketing strategy must have had a direct effect on our turnover.



In general we are gaining much more online exposure too. The company website has been receiving far more visitors than usual.

This is bound to be linked to the online side of the new strategy. We're promoting ourselves more and therefore more people are visiting the website.





## Deduction

As we saw on the previous page, **deduction** is very useful for businesses. A company needs to be able to make **logical conclusions** based on facts. They can then use these conclusions to make **informed decisions**.





## Speculation



**Speculation** is also important when it comes to **decision making**. As you will see on the next page, speculation allows you to think about all the options and consider what the impacts of each one will be.



## Dialogue

**Read the following dialogue. Can you spot any speculations?**



Do you think we should put more money into the marketing department?

I'm not so sure. The new marketing strategy is already going really well, and putting more money towards it doesn't necessarily mean it will get any better. We might simply end up reducing our profit.



I suppose you're right. On the other hand, it's possible that an increase in the marketing budget would increase the quality of our campaigns.

I guess the best thing to do is to increase the budget slightly and wait to see if it has an effect. I imagine that is the option with the least risk.



## speculation

## deduction

Are you clear about the different meanings?

When we **speculate**, we don't always have evidence. More often than not, we are guessing. However, when we **deduce** something, this is a logical statement or estimate based on factual proof.



**Speculation:** My birthday is in October and it often rains this time of year – **I daresay it will rain** this year too!



**Deduction:** **You must have** spent a lot of time outside this summer. **I can see you are** very tanned!



## Speculation or deduction

**Which do you think is  
more important in a  
business context:  
speculation or  
deduction?  
Are they equally  
important?**



## Speculation and deduction

Look at the pictures below.  
Make one speculation and one deduction for each image.



They must have...



I wonder...





## Practise the new words

**Make sentences using the words on right based on the situations described in the boxes on the left. Speculate or deduce as necessary.**

Your colleague was very late to work this morning.

in all likelihood

Your boss won't let you take two weeks off next month.

daresay

Your manager and your union representative met to discuss shorter working hours, and the union member left the meeting looking extremely happy.

verdict

Your company has just received a lot of funding.

bound

Your lazy colleague has been called in for a performance review.

in all likelihood



## Further practice



Think of someone you know.  
Describe them and their life to  
your teacher.

If you met them for the first time  
what could you deduce about  
them and why? What might you  
speculate about them and their  
life? Are they happy right now? Or  
stressed?

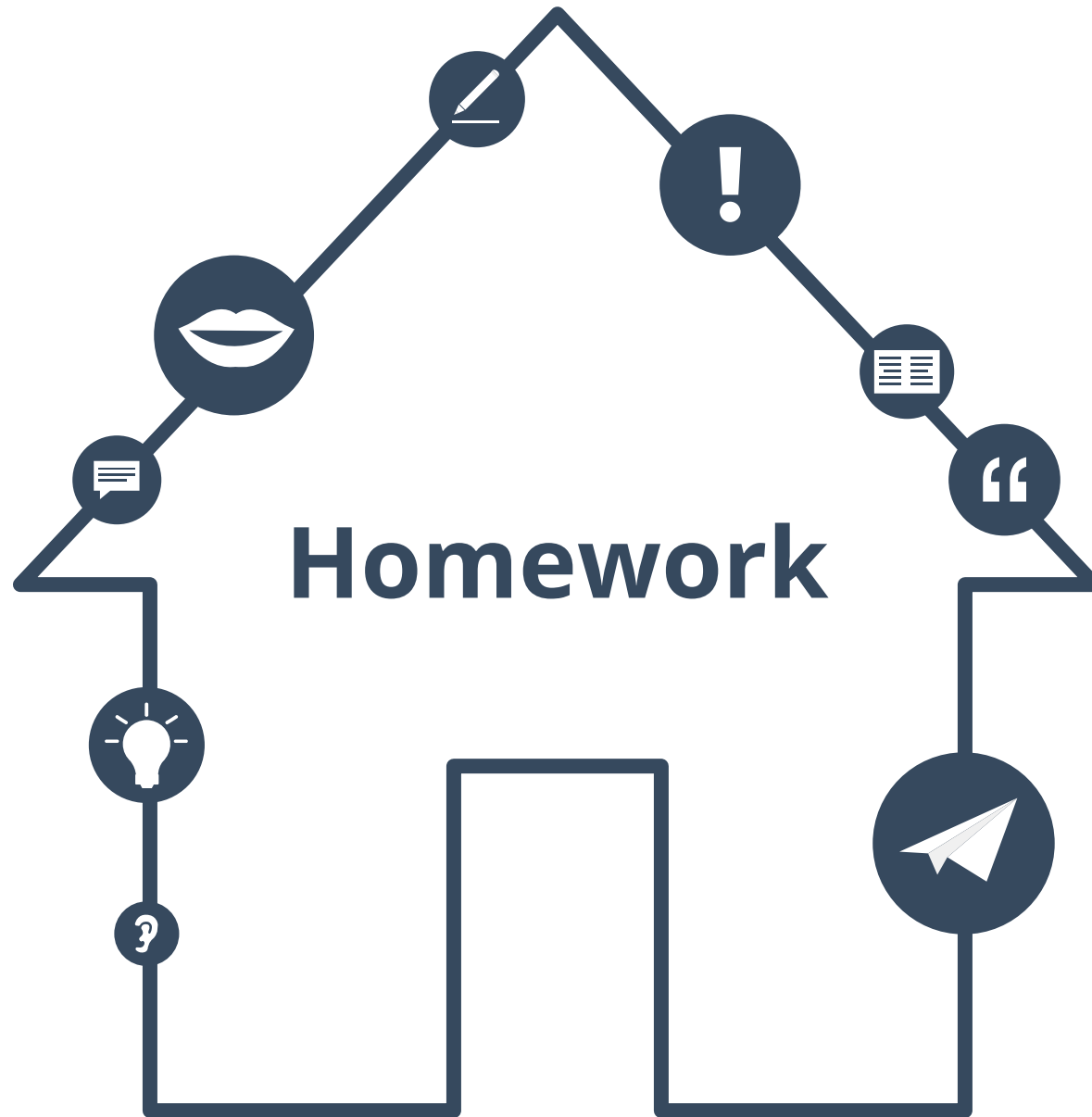


## Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!







## Evaluate

**How did you find this lesson? Which parts were easy and which were more difficult? Write your thoughts here!**

A vertical sheet of white paper with horizontal lines, resembling a notepad or notebook page, intended for writing feedback.



## Write an e-mail

**Imagine one of your colleagues suddenly stops turning up for work one day. Speculate about what could have happened to him and why.**



Was he sacked or made redundant? Did he change jobs without telling anyone? Is he ill?

Why might these things have happened?



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