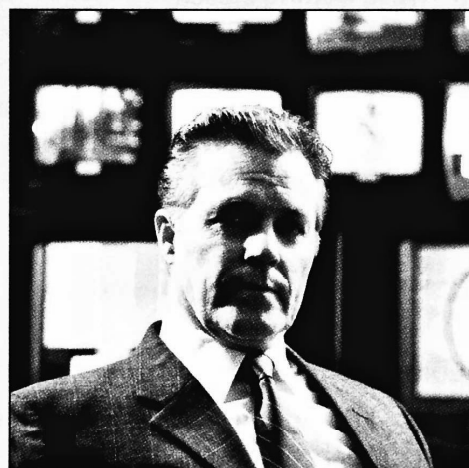


A Scandal

BBC under pressure to sack presenter

Politicians **are putting pressure on** the BBC to remove chat-show host Bob Aldred, after a story **leaked out** that he uttered racist remarks following his Saturday show. The comments were made **off the record**, and colleagues feel they have **been blown out of proportion**. However, Aldred is **a household name**, and any comments that could **stir up** controversy and **cast doubt on** the integrity of the BBC would be very damaging. Friends hope the incident will quickly **blow over**, but critics argue that the BBC has been left with no option. 'This story won't **go away**,' said one MP. 'The BBC must act now to **stamp out** any possible accusation of racism, and **the sooner the better**.'



Glossary

put pressure on sb (to do sth)	force or try to persuade sb to do sth; that person is then under pressure .
leak out	(of secret information) become known to the public.
off the record	used for saying that a remark is not official or intended to be made public. OPP on the record .
blow sth (up) out of (all) proportion	make sth seem much worse or more dangerous than it really is.
a household name	a name known to everyone; a famous person.
stir sth up	try to cause arguments or problems.
cast doubt(s) on sth	make people feel less certain about sth.
blow over	If a difficult situation blows over , people stop talking about it and soon forget about it.
go away	disappear.
stamp sth out	get rid of sth that is wrong or dangerous, often with force.
the sooner the better	as soon as possible.

1 Circle the correct answer.

- If you **cast doubt on something**, you make other people feel *more* / *less* certain about it.
- If a situation **blows over**, people *start* / *stop* worrying about it.
- If a comment is made **on the record**, it *is* / *isn't* intended to be made public.
- If information **leaks out**, it becomes *known* / *official*.
- If you **stamp something out**, you *put your foot on it* / *get rid of it*.
- If a problem **goes away**, it *disappears* / *moves somewhere else*.

2 Rewrite the sentences using the correct form of the word in capitals. Keep the same meaning.

- We need to get rid of prejudice. STAMP *We need to stamp out prejudice.*
- He tried to make her change her mind. PRESSURE
 - His comments weren't intended to be made public. RECORD
 - We need to do this, and as soon as possible. SOONER
 - He's known to everyone. HOUSEHOLD
 - The secrets have become known recently. LEAK
 - People will soon forget about the incident. BLOW
 - She made it seem much worse than it was. PROPORTION
 - His comments have caused a lot of anger. STIR


35 I can use the language of discussion

A Winning the argument

In a heated discussion, how annoyed are you by people who: very/quite/not at all

- want to win the argument **at all costs**?
- **play devil's advocate** all the time?
- constantly **butt in** when you're trying to speak?
- **beat about the bush** all the time instead of **getting to the point**?
- always seem to **miss the point** of what people are saying?
- always want to **have the last word**?
- just want to argue **for the sake of it**?
- refuse to **back down** and admit they are wrong?

Glossary

at all costs	used to say that something must be done, however difficult it is. SYN at any cost/price .
play devil's advocate	pretend to disagree with sb in order to start an argument or discussion.
butt in	interrupt sb.
beat about the bush	discuss sth in an indirect way, without saying what you really want to say. ( See page 162.)
get to the point	stop talking about unimportant details and say what is most important.
miss the point	not understand the main thing that sb is trying to say.
have the last/final word (on sth)	win an argument by making the last statement or final decision on sth.
for the sake of it	If you do sth for the sake of it , you do it because you enjoy it, not because you want to achieve anything else.
back down (on sth)	admit that you are wrong or have lost an argument.

1 Is the meaning similar or different? Write S or D.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 She always has the final word. | She always butts in. |
| 2 He wants to win at all costs. | He wants to win at any price. |
| 3 She never gets to the point. | She always misses the point. |
| 4 He keeps butting in when I'm talking. | He keeps interrupting when I'm talking. |
| 5 He loves to play devil's advocate. | He often argues for the sake of it. |
| 6 She doesn't beat about the bush. | She never backs down. |

2 Complete the sentences.

- 1 I never get a chance to finish what I'm saying, because he keeps _____ in.
- 2 Mr Ellis explained it carefully, but Anya still completely _____ the point.
- 3 Stop _____ about the bush and get to the _____ of what you're trying to say.
- 4 However much you argue with her, she always has to have the final _____.
- 5 Even if you prove he's wrong, he still won't _____ down.
- 6 I don't think she disagreed with you. She was just playing _____ advocate because she enjoys arguing for the _____ of it.

3 ABOUT YOU Write your answers in the questionnaire at the top of the page, or talk to another student. Do you do any of these things?