IDIOMS & PHRASAL VERBS

Evidence and Belief

C1 | Adults / Teens | Idioms + Discussion | 45-60 minutes
Topic: Discussion | Skills: Vocabulary, Speaking

Study the phrases and examples. Discuss the questions and try to use the new language.

USEFUL LANGUAGE

1. take something at face value	accept something as it appears without questioning it	I would not take that promise at face value.
2. read between the lines	understand a meaning that is suggested but not stated	Reading between the lines, she seemed unwilling to continue.
3. add up	seem logical or consistent	His explanation didn't add up.
4. bear out	support or confirm a claim	The later interviews bore out our initial findings.
5. rule out	decide that something is not possible or suitable	The team ruled out equipment failure after several tests.
6. call into question	create doubt about something	The missing records called the report's accuracy into question.
7. a grain of truth	a small amount of truth in a larger claim	The exaggerated story contained a grain of truth.
8. keep an open mind	remain willing to consider different ideas	I disagree for now, but I will keep an open mind.

DISCUSSION

1. What kinds of claims should people avoid taking at face value?
2. When is reading between the lines useful, and when can it mislead us?
3. What do you do when an apparently credible explanation does not add up?
4. What evidence would bear out a claim that a training course is effective?
5. How much evidence is needed to rule out an explanation?
6. What might call an expert's judgement into question without disproving it entirely?
7. Why can a misleading story with a grain of truth be persuasive?
8. How can people keep an open mind without treating every claim as equally credible?