

# 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

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