

## 26 Rumour has it I'm a gossip (7.4 Use of English)

**Aim:** To practise passive reporting structures.

**Interaction:** Individual/Pairs.

**Type of activity:** Sentence formation, guessing and information exchange.

**Time:** 20 minutes.

**Materials:** 1 worksheet per student.

### In class:

(1) Tell students that at first they are going to work individually and hand out the worksheets.

(2) Ask them to look at the list of queries in the search box and make sentences using passive reporting structures as in the example provided.

(3) Check the answers briefly with the whole class.

(4) Tell students to look at the sentences again and to think of five real people that they could describe. Tell them to write the people's names in the avatar icons in random order. Explain that each description can only be used once. Set a time limit of three minutes.

(5) Ask students to fold the worksheets along the dotted lines.

(6) Divide students into pairs and tell them to swap their worksheets.

(7) Students take turns to guess which sentences might describe the people in the avatar icons. They should use the queries in the search box to say the sentences, e.g. *I'd hazard a guess that ... is said to buy second-hand clothes*. The other student, however, may look at the sentences and give a prompt.

(8) Ask students how easy/difficult it was for them to guess who the people were.

**Optional follow-up:** You may want to ask students if they visit celebrity gossip websites and what they think of them.

### Answers:

1 Someone famous who is considered to be a role model.

2 An actor or a singer who is known to have their own fashion line.

3 A public figure who is reported to be suffering from a chronic disease.

4 A film star who is said to have an exceptionally high IQ.

5 An actor who is estimated to have earned millions from advertising.

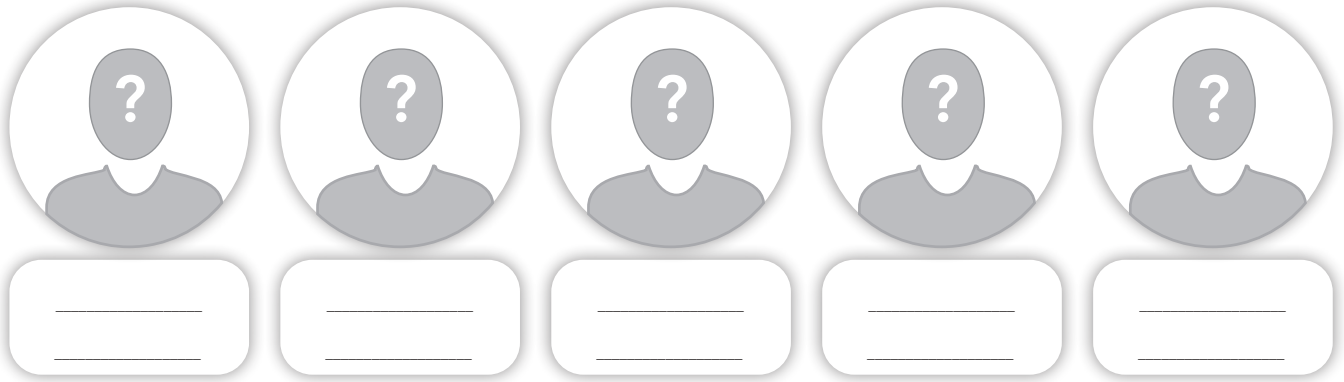
6 A celebrity who is reckoned to be living with their parents.

7 Someone famous who is known to have participated in a talent show.

8 A celebrity who is known to have changed their name.

9 A well-known person who is believed to have been struggling with low self-esteem.

10 A celebrity who is rumoured to be considering retirement from show business.



celebrity buys second-hand clothes + **say**



- 1 someone famous is a role model + **consider**
- 2 actor or singer has own fashion line + **know**
- 3 public figure is suffering from a chronic disease + **report**
- 4 film star has exceptionally high IQ + **say**
- 5 actor has earned millions from advertising + **estimate**
- 6 celebrity is living with parents + **reckon**
- 7 someone famous has participated in a talent show + **know**
- 8 celebrity has changed their name + **know**
- 9 well-known person has been struggling with low self-esteem + **believe**
- 10 celebrity is considering retirement from show business + **rumour**

FOLD

A celebrity who is said to buy second-hand clothes.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_