

6 Risk management

- ▶ perspectives
- ▶ expressing stance

Did you know?

Stance refers to our personal view or evaluation of the subject under discussion. We indicate stance using adverbials: *there is little doubt that ... arguably ... surprisingly ...* Perspective relates to the particular aspect of the topic we are focusing on: *in financial terms, politically speaking, from a legal perspective.* Stance and perspective adverbials are grammatically optional; they add a lot of meaning to the text, but the sentence in which they occur would still 'stand up' if they were taken out.

▶ Grammar and practice
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6.3 Grammar Perspective and stance



Listening for perspective

- 1 2:13 Listen to an interview with Li Bai, an expert on risk management. Underline the perspectives below which are explicitly mentioned. Are any other perspectives implicit?

economic cultural political financial business global individual banking ethical human psychological historical managerial philosophical environmental

- 2 2:13 Listen again for expressions which indicate the speaker's perspective, and fill in the spaces with their exact words.

- 1 Risk management is the attention that organizations must pay _____ to things that can and do go wrong.
- 2 _____, if somebody is a bad risk, you would not lend them money.
- 3 _____, they never studied the likely behavioural responses.
- 4 _____, some of the banks saw the problem coming.
- 5 So _____ this affected everyone?
- 6 _____, you can see the logic.

Reading for stance

- 3 Work with a partner. Read the texts opposite and identify the writer's stance, choosing from one or more of the possibilities in the box below.

tentative confident optimistic pessimistic apologetic subjective objective critical
sarcastic sceptical

Internet research

Search for the keywords *risk management strategy* to find more about this. Prepare a two-minute presentation to make to the class on this topic.

Identifying stance expressions

- 4 Work with a partner. Read the texts again and underline the language which indicates the writer or speaker's stance. Match each expression with one or more of the attitudes in the box above.

In text A, *seem likely to continue* is fairly tentative, but *across the board* is essentially confident ...