

TEXT A:

OPINION

Prices of commodities seem likely to continue rising across the board in the foreseeable future. In the current climate of rising inflation generally there remains little doubt that the impact on households' real wealth, not to mention their rapidly deteriorating mood, will be wholly unpleasant. In my view, the government's reputation for economic competence is now in tatters.

TEXT B:

To make matters worse for the beleaguered Minister, it now emerges that the tough new business regulations she is now promoting so forcefully were originally proposed not by her own government but by the opposition. Surely that is an example of hypocrisy, is it not? It is little wonder that voters are increasingly confused over where the latest feel-good policy is coming from.

TEXT C:

On balance, it could be argued that the likelihood of the enterprise succeeding seems somewhat limited. While there are some grounds for optimism with regard to the technology actually functioning correctly, considerable doubts remain over the ability of the project to withstand the probable risks which may lie ahead.

CONFIDENTIAL

TEXT D:

While the company makes every effort to ensure that our products reach you in perfect condition, on this occasion we recognize that our standards clearly fell short of your expectations. We therefore have no hesitation in offering you a full refund plus a voucher which you may use in part-payment for a future purchase. We remain confident that you will be completely happy with our products in future.

Expressing stance

5 Rewrite the sentences below to express the stance given in *italics*.

- Investing in emerging markets is rewarding. *Tentative*
In certain circumstances investing in emerging markets can be rewarding if you have a healthy appetite for risk.
- Your risk management plan is arguably full of holes. *Confident*
- In fact, the strategy has been exceptionally successful. *Tentative*
- Prices are definitely going to rise. *Tentative*
- If I may say so, you could have paid more attention to the risks involved. *Critical*
- On the whole, there are good reasons to suppose that the product is beginning to take hold. *Confident*
- I would doubt the likelihood of the same thing happening twice. *Objective*
- Arguably mistakes were made, but some useful lessons have been learned. *Subjective and apologetic*
- For the most part, we seem to have maintained a reasonable level of sales, although we cannot be certain about the immediate future. *Confident, objective and pessimistic*

Speaking

6 In small groups, take turns to improvise a one-minute presentation on a risk of your choice, choosing an identifiable stance. At the end of one minute, the others have to identify your stance.

