

Speculating and drawing conclusions

1 Look at the photograph. Answer the questions.

- 1 Where do you think the man is?
- 2 Why do you think he is attempting to hide?
- 3 How successful do you think he is?



2 3.29 Read and listen to the description of a photo. How similar are their ideas to yours?

Judging by the fact that there are lots of trees and a wide river, I'd say that the photo was taken in the rainforest, or some such place. The fact that he's got a camera would suggest that he's some kind of photographer or cameraman. He's sitting on what looks like a wooden platform, so obviously he wants to be high up, as it were. Perhaps he's trying to film some bird or other. It's clear from the fact that he's built a special platform that he's planning to be there for a long time. He's brought a lot of stuff with him too. I'd say from his body language that he hasn't been very successful, though. He looks really bored and fed up.

3 Complete the speculations using the words in the box.

clear judging looks say suggest

- 1 _____ by the fact that ... , I'd say that ...
- 2 The fact that... would _____ that ...
- 3 It's _____ from the fact that ... that he's ...
- 4 I'd _____ from ... that ...
- 5 He _____ ...

4 Use the prompts to make sentences. Include phrases from exercise 3 for drawing conclusions.

- 1 there's a microphone → it's a video camera (judging by the fact / I'd say)
- 2 he has a grey beard → he's quite old (The fact that / would suggest)
- 3 he's chosen this career → he likes being alone (so obviously)

Speaking tip

Vague language

Words like *thing* and *stuff* are useful when it isn't possible to be more precise about what you see. You can also use phrases like *some kind of* and *some ... or other*.

5 Read the *Speaking tip*. Find examples of vague language exercise 2. Then use the same language to make these sentences more vague.

- 1 He's wearing a coat made of feathers.
- 2 She's carrying a parcel.
- 3 He appears to be chasing an animal.

6 Work in pairs. Look at the photo. Discuss these questions.

- 1 What steps has the person taken to make himself hard to see?
- 2 Why do you think he has taken those steps?
- 3 How would you feel if you were in this situation?



7 Using exercise 1 as a model, speculate about what's going on in the picture.

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