

13 NEWS AND THE MEDIA

WATCH

A Watch the video. Answer these questions.

1 Why did the bank go bankrupt?

2 Who killed the policemen and why?

3 What's amazing about the new toilet?

B Compare your ideas with a partner.

C Look at the video script. What are the missing words?

D Watch again and check your answers.

PRACTISE PRONUNCIATION

A Practise the conversation in pairs.

B Which words or phrases are difficult for you? Tell a partner.

C Watch again and listen to the words / phrases that are difficult to say.

Ask your teacher to stop the video.

Repeat the word(s) / phrases.

D In pairs, practise reading the dialogue again.

KARAOKE

Watch the karaoke version and look at the video script. Act out the karaoke lines in *italics*.

VIDEO SCRIPT

- Yvonne So, what do you make of this story about the national bank going bankrupt?
- Nicholas *Yeah, I saw that. It's terrible, isn't it?* But I'm not sure I really understand what's actually happened.
- Yvonne *Yeah, I know what you mean. It's pretty tricky stuff to follow, isn't it?* I'm no expert or anything, but
¹ _____ it, they've been lending money to all kinds of people who've basically got no chance of ever paying back their loans and the mortgages and now there's a big recession, house prices have dropped and the banks have been left with a lot of bad debt.
- Nicholas *Yeah, OK, but don't banks usually keep loads of money in case they get into these kinds of situations?*
- Yvonne Capital reserves, yeah. I think they've just got their maths wrong. They have all these mad equations saying what percentage of their finance they ought to keep safe and how much they can play with, and they just ² _____.
- Nicholas *And probably now it'll be the taxpayer that ends up paying for all their losses. That's what really makes me angry!* There really needs to be ³ _____ this kind of thing happening again. I mean, how many times do we have to hear similar stories before they decide something has to change?
- Yvonne I think it's deeper than that. I think there's ⁴ _____ the whole way economics is used to inform policy. *It's clearly not the science that they claim it is.*
- Nicholas You might be right. I've no idea! Anyway ... did you see that crazy story in the news about the policemen somewhere who was shot dead at some national airport?
- Yvonne *No, I didn't! Where was that, then? And what was it? Some*
⁵ _____ ?
- Nicholas No, it was more crazy than that. I can't remember the country, but it turned out they were shot by fellow policemen.
- Yvonne Uh! Why?
- Nicholas If I'm remembering it correctly, the guys who did the shooting were involved in some
⁶ _____ and were helping drugs to get through the airport and these other guys were investigating what was going on.
- Yvonne *And just got a bit too close to the truth?*
- Nicholas It sounds like it, yeah.
- Yvonne That's horrendous! They really need to do more to crack down on the drug trade.
- Nicholas *Ah, they'll never stop it. How can they?* ⁷ _____, *isn't it?* As long as people buy drugs, others will produce and sell them. And plenty of people will line their pockets along the way.
- Yvonne *That's a fairly depressing view of things!*
- Nicholas Yeah, maybe, but it's true!
- Yvonne So ... did you hear about these amazing new toilets that turn human waste into electricity and fertilisers?
- Nicholas No! What's that? It sounds amazing.
- Yvonne Yeah, I was reading about it in the paper. It's being
⁸ _____. They're based on aeroplane toilets and use far less water than normal toilets – and they channel liquid and solid waste into different places, where useful chemicals ⁹ _____ them and gases can be converted into electricity.
- Nicholas Wow! So are they on the market already, these toilets?
- Yvonne *Not yet, but they should* ¹⁰ _____ *three years, they said.*