

**14 In the conversation in exercise 11, Sabina agrees with Charles. Here are some other ways to agree or disagree with someone. Put a tick (✓) next to the ones which mean agreement, and a cross (X) next to those which mean disagreement.**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 You've got a point there. <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 It's just not on. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 I see what you mean. <input type="checkbox"/>      | 6 Fair enough. <input type="checkbox"/>      |
| 3 Me neither. <input type="checkbox"/>               | 7 Point taken. <input type="checkbox"/>      |
| 4 No way. <input type="checkbox"/>                   |  |

**15 Now use the above expressions to respond to the following statements. Note that more than one answer is possible.**

- 1 "I think we should work fewer hours. I mean, almost everyone else in this company now works 35-hour weeks, and look at us!" "\_\_\_\_\_"
- 2 "Can you come in next weekend?" "What again? \_\_\_\_\_"
- 3 "I'd like you to prepare the figures for next week's presentation. But this time could you make sure that you put our current client's name on the slides?" "\_\_\_\_\_"
- 4 "We need to finish this by next Wednesday. How about if we postpone the department party? There's no other way." "\_\_\_\_\_"
- 5 "Have you had a look at this? It's a disaster, a catastrophe!" "Hang on, it can't be that bad. Ah, \_\_\_\_\_"
- 6 "Look, we really need to convince the boss that some of the transactions have been wrongly booked. I don't want problems later." "\_\_\_\_\_"
- 7 "They want us to take a pay cut this year." "Are you kidding? \_\_\_\_\_"

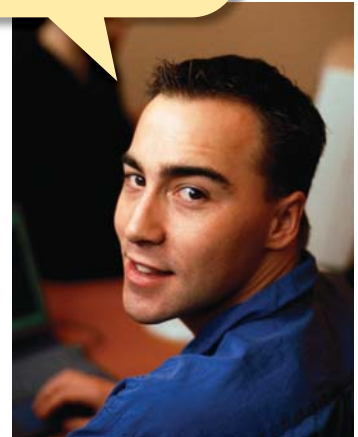
**16 Do you agree with the speaker? Use the phrases above to agree or disagree and continue the discussion with a partner.**

*Off-balance-sheet accounting should be made illegal.*

*It's time the world moved to the same accounting principles – everyone should use US GAAP.*



*Creative accounting is a good thing.*



## OPTIONAL READING

**Becoming an accountant****CPA**

The body which represents the interests of accountants in the US is the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). To become a CPA, the applicant must meet the requirements of the state where he/she wishes to practise, as established by the law of that state and administered by the state boards of accountancy.

To qualify for certification, the applicant must:

- 1 study accountancy at a college or university
- 2 pass the CPA examination, which consists of four sections:
  - Business Law and Professional Responsibilities
  - Auditing
  - Accounting and Reporting-Taxation, Managerial, and Governmental and Not-for-Profit Organizations
  - Financial Accounting and Reporting – Business Enterprises
- 3 have professional work experience in public accounting.

Most states require a qualified CPA to carry out regular professional training.

**Chartered accountant**

The major accounting body in the UK is the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW).

To become a Chartered Accountant, the applicant must:

- 1 have sufficient school or university education
- 2 apply for a training contract with a recognized company, which will give him/her three years work experience
- 3 pass the ICAEW's exams on:
  - Accounting
  - Audit and Assurance
  - Business Finance
  - Business Management
  - Financial Reporting
  - Taxation
- 4 as well as prove his/her knowledge on Commercial and Company Law, and then with further exams on:
  - Business Environment
  - Business Life Cycle
  - Advanced Case Study

**Over to you**

How does the process of becoming an accountant in your country compare to those described above? Describe the general accounting rules and practices in your country. What standards are used to prepare financial information? How is off-balance-sheet accounting treated in your country? How is leasing reported in accounts?