**Cambridge English B for the IB Diploma: Teacher resource**

**Audio scripts**

**Audio track 14**

**Chuck:** Hi, David. It’s a pleasure to meet you, after hearing so much about you. Here, have a seat. Coffee is coming shortly.

**David:** Thanks. That’s lovely. I’m not sure what you’ve heard about me, but I hope it’s good.

**Chuck:** It’s all good... except for the criticisms.

**David:** Ha ha! You can’t please them all, I guess.

**Chuck:** No, true. But your message is not easy for everyone to understand. You’re a disrupter, and that’s what I like about you.

**David:** I just report what I find out.

**Chuck:** And that’s why we need you. As you know, we’re working on a documentary about the effects of animal agriculture on the environment.

**David:** Yes, I heard you need a ‘talking head’ for your film.

**Chuck:** You could call it that, I suppose. Your involvement in this documentary would validate a lot of the claims we intend to make.

**David:** And what kinds of claims do you intend to make?

**Chuck:** Well, generally speaking the film aims to show how climate change is caused by livestock and animal agriculture. But more specifically, we thought we’d bring you in to talk about the hypocritical behaviour of environmental groups. They seem to be in denial about animal agriculture and obsessed with fossil fuels. We feel they’re over-focused on the usual reduce-reuse-recycle mantra.

**David:** Yes, I know what you mean. It is rather strange that charity organisations that claim to save the rainforest or whales actually encourage people to eat fish on their website.

**Chuck:** We know you did some research on charity organisations. And we’d like to interview you about your findings. But the film cannot come across as some crackpot conspiracy theory. We want to include hard evidence. We know you tried talking to these organisations when researching your book.

**David:** Well, like you said, I *tried* but I didn’t get very far.

**Chuck:** Yes I realise that. I understand they refused your requests for interviews. But that’s the very thing I find interesting. Why do you think they wouldn’t talk?

**David:** Look, you probably know why: it was embarrassing for them. I was confronting them with the fact that they were funded by big agriculture. And they can’t talk about the evils of the meat industry, if they’re actually funded by the meat industry, so instead they focus oncarbon dioxide, whales, rainforests and polar bears on floating sheets of melting ice.

**Chuck:** But you discovered concrete evidence that these charity organisations actually receive funding from factory farms?

**David:** Yeah, but it’s not a secret. Any non-profit organisation has to publish the names of its contributors. I can show you where to find this evidence with a simple Google search.

**Chuck:** That would be good. In fact we could even include this Google search in the documentary. I think this is going to be a part of the film that viewers find most disturbing. It’s a bit like the tobacco industry secretly funding the American Lung Cancer Association. It just doesn’t make sense.

**David:** I’m not sure that’s a fair comparison, Chuck. I think it’s more like the tobacco industry secretly funding the American Heart Attack Association. Because if they can convince the world that heart attacks are scarier than lung cancer, then they can continue to sell cigarettes. It actually makes perfect sense.

**Chuck:** Ah... OK, I think I see the bigger picture here. So you’re saying it’s kind of a bait and switch technique. First get people to care about species extinction and global warming. Get them to believe that carbon dioxide is the enemy, and then everyone ignores the methane problem. And animal agriculture can continue to pollute and make billions.

**David:** Exactly. But I should add, these companies and charity organisations don’t have to work hard to distract us from the methane problem. Many people already know the truth about animal agriculture, but willingly ignore it.

**Chuck:** Because?

**David:** I think you know why, Chuck.

**Chuck:** They like meat too much?

**David:** Exactly. But what’s worse: if they stop eating meat, they would be called ‘vegetarians’ or ‘vegans’.

**Chuck:** You say that as if it’s a scary thing.

**David:** Well yes, that’s what people think.

**Chuck:** We’re planning on using the term ‘plant-based diet’ in the documentary.

**David:** Smart move. People think vegetarians are strange. They think veganism is a cult. It sounds extreme to the average person.

**Chuck:** I know. Our research confirms this.

**David:** You know, many people think that vegans and vegetarians are animal rights activists. They think we’re the kind of people who cry every time an animal is slaughtered. And true, some vegans do cry. But between you and me, it’s their waste that bothers me. It’s smoking up and choking up our planet. And I care about the people on our planet, including my omnivore friends. I’d recommend focusing on that line of argument in your documentary instead of the fluffy, cute nature of farm animals.

**Chuck:** I agree, but it strikes an emotional chord with a lot of viewers. We’ll probably have to have a few happy, organic animals in the documentary.

**David:** Understandable.

**Chuck:** Oh, here’s the coffee. How do you take it? Cream or sugar?

**David:** Black, thank you.