

*Transcrip – Talking about rumors B2*

**Will:** Kiera, have you heard John isn't coming back and they might even fire him?

**Kiera:** No! I knew he was away but I thought it was for personal reasons?

**Will:** I'm pretty sure that's not the full story. Have you ever worked with him?

**Kiera:** A long time ago, but ... well, I've heard stories about him for years.

**Will:** I've never worked with him directly but I know people that have and they say he was always shouting and screaming, threatening to fire people. And Susanne told me he took credit for one of her ideas. She had this idea for a project and she brought it up at the monthly creative workshop and he liked it - everybody did. But she saw the notes from the meeting and there was no mention of her name anywhere. John had agreed with her and repeated some of the things she said and the notes made it look like they were his ideas in the first place. He made her do all the work planning it, then when the project actually got started - it was that cars one - Susanne was moved to something else.

**Kiera:** It won an award, didn't it?

**Will:** Yeah, but Susanne didn't get to share it - there was zero recognition of her contribution. She was furious but she couldn't do anything about it. Not if she wanted to keep her job.

**Kiera:** Yeah, it's almost impossible to report people who are as high up as John is, or was.

**Will:** How did you find working with him, then?

**Kiera:** Well, you know what you said about him shouting at people? I've been in meetings with him and we all learned to keep our mouths shut. It was horrible. People were genuinely afraid of him.

**Will:** Did you ever see him stealing people's ideas?

**Kiera:** It was never that obvious. He was a genius. He had incredible vision but, you know, there was a whole team of people working with him. Not every single idea came from him and after a while it's not easy to say, 'Oh, this idea was mine and this idea was yours.' For me, the bigger problem was that you could be in his good books and then suddenly, with no explanation, you were out. And if you were out, life got very difficult.

**Will:** I heard women in particular had a hard time working with him.

**Kiera:** Yeah, well, like I said, you had to stay in his good books. So, if there was a comment that made you feel uncomfortable, you didn't say anything.

**Will:** Did that happen to you?

**Kiera:** Not to me, no, but we all knew ... and no one said anything. And I was lucky I didn't have that much contact with him myself.

**Will:** They're doing a full investigation so I suppose a lot of these stories are going to come to light.

**Kiera:** I hope so. I really hope he's not coming back.

**FUENTE:** <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/cn/zh-hans/skills/listening/upper-intermediate-b2/talking-about-rumours>

*Transcrip – Catching up after the trip C1*

**Dave:** Jean, hi!

**Jean:** Hi, Dave. How are you?

**Dave:** Good, good.

**Jean:** Wait a second, I'm not calling you in Canada, right? You're back now, aren't you?

**Dave:** Yeah, I got back two days ago.

**Jean:** Oh good, phew. Because I wouldn't want to be calling you long distance without realising it and suddenly ...

**Dave:** You've spent a fortune on a long-distance call. No, I know, it's OK. I actually wouldn't answer the phone while I was over there if I saw the call was coming from England. But no worries, we're in the same country now.

**Jean:** Yeah. So, how was the trip? Did you meet your long-lost uncle?

**Dave:** I did, actually. It was very good. I flew to Toronto and stayed there for a few days. At first I was really worried about my accommodation because I kept reading these appalling stories about rental flats going all wrong.

**Jean:** Oh, was it one of those?

**Dave:** Yeah.

**Jean:** My friend had a disastrous experience in Barcelona with one of them. The place didn't look anything like the photos, and all the neighbours hated that there was a holiday flat in their building. Awkward situation. Urgh.

**Dave:** Right. So, as I was saying, I was really worried because I heard these stories. And at first I couldn't find the place. Turns out I was in the wrong building. It was next door, and on the top floor, and ... wow. Jean, this place was fabulous! Really spacious, with these floor-to-ceiling windows and the most scenic views of the city. I could see the lake and the whole city skyline and skyscrapers from my bedroom. I had to pinch myself to prove I wasn't dreaming.

**Jean:** Sounds pretty cool. So, what's it like? The city, I mean. I've always wanted to go to Canada.

**Dave:** It's nice. I mean, it's another big, vibrant, modern city. But it's really clean, and there's lots of parks. One of the things I liked was the multiculturalism. We visited Chinatown, Little Italy, Greektown, Little India ... umm, I can't remember the others but it was sort of a new area every three or four blocks, you know?

**Jean:** Hey, is it true that there's a whole part of the city that's underground? I read that somewhere about Toronto, or saw it on some TV show.

**Dave:** It's true! I asked about that. They call it the PATH. There's, like, almost 30 kilometres of restaurants, shops, cinemas and stuff all underground. In the middle of the downtown area.

**Jean:** Amazing!

**Dave:** Yeah, but actually once you're down there it's not that noticeable. There's actually a lot of natural light. I forgot we were underground. It's mostly useful to get out of the cold weather.

**Jean:** What temperature was it while you were there?

**Dave:** It was still only November, but it was getting cold. We had at least a day where it was less than zero. My uncle told me that in January and February it can go down to 20 below zero.

**Jean:** Oh, wow. I think I'd die!

**Dave:** Yeah, and the worst thing was what they call the 'wind-chill' factor. So they say the temperature is zero degrees, but minus eight with the wind chill. So it feels like minus eight. And my uncle said the wind-chill factor can go down to minus 40.

**Jean:** Stop it! You're making me feel cold just thinking about it. So, how was meeting your uncle? The famous Uncle George.

**Dave:** That was great too. He lives outside of Toronto, in a cottage by a lake. Really tranquil and unspoiled nature.

**Jean:** I'm dying to see photos. You want to meet up soon? Or are you too jet lagged still?

**Dave:** Yeah, I'm actually free tomorrow if you like.

FUENTE: <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org.cn/zh-hans/skills/listening/advanced-c1/catching-up-after-a-trip>