

Chapter 1-4 Teamwork 1

Presuppositions are implicit or underlying assumptions that are often taken for granted within a statement, conversation, or discourse. They are the hidden beliefs that are essential for the meaning of a sentence, and they play a significant role in how we communicate and understand language. Team 4 has discussed each one's presuppositions about Portugal, Spain, Croatia and Germany.

My name is **Lovro**, and I'm from **Croatia**. Croatians are known for their kindness and warm hospitality, and we enjoy socializing and spending time with one another. Our strong sense of national pride is deeply ingrained in our values. Personally, I consider myself an organized and composed individual who takes pleasure in assisting others. I also take immense pride in my country and its numerous achievements. Regarding stereotypes about Croatians, some common perceptions include being perceived as lazy, direct, and often exuberant, while our love for good beer, a good sense of humor, a passion for sports, and a welcoming attitude are well-recognized traits. In contrast, I've heard certain stereotypes about the Portuguese, such as being loud and fond of parties. However, after working with colleagues from Portugal, I must say they've proven to be quite calm and approachable. I thoroughly enjoyed collaborating with them, and I can attest to their lovely and kind nature. My presumption about Spanish people is that they are warm and always ready to help. After this week I can confirm my expectations. Last but not least, I thought that German people are not easy going and hardworking. After all I was wrong, they are actually easy going.

My name is **Yezdan**, and I'm from **Germany**. Germans are often perceived as hardworking, disciplined individuals who value efficiency and punctuality. In my interactions with my teammates from Croatia, Portugal, and Spain, I've found a wonderful blend of diverse cultures and perspectives. Croatians, as I've experienced, are incredibly warm and hospitable, embodying a strong sense of national pride. Working with my Portuguese colleagues, I've come to appreciate their calm and approachable nature, debunking some common stereotypes. As for my Spanish teammates, their passion for life and vibrant energy has added a lively dynamic to

TEAM 4

our collaborative efforts. Together, we create a harmonious team, celebrating our differences and learning from one another's unique qualities.

My name is **Paola**, from Spain. Spanish people are known for being sociable and friendly because of our ability to engage in conversations easily. It is also said that we are very family-oriented, as we highly value family and maintain strong familial bonds. Spanish people are also very proud of our culture and our history. Some stereotypes about Spaniards are that in Spain, people work very little, Spanish people are partying all day, and all Spaniards take a “siesta”. After being a week working with my teammates from Croatia, Portugal and Germany, I can say that I have changed the idea I had of each of them. Before working with Portuguese, I thought they were lazy and not very educated compared to other countries but after being with them for a week working day by day I have been able to realize that this is not the case because they are very hard working, polite and friendly. My thought about Croatians was that they love to drink and are very lazy but after this week I have totally changed my mind. Croatians are very warm, with a good sense of humor and a lot of hospitality. And my opinion about Germans was that they were not nice, humorless and very rigid and authoritarian. But after changing my opinion I think they have great hospitality, education and knowledge.

We are **Lara** and **Margarida** from **Portugal**, a small country compared to our colleagues' countries but full of people that in our opinion, can be described in different ways due to the change in behavior of the population depending on the region of the country. People from the North are known for their strong personality, more rural sense of humor, and inclination for enjoyment. They are also hardworking and sometimes seen as more rugged; however, they are very helpful, hospitable, and welcoming. People from the Central part of the country are perceived as hospitable with a more open mind, although they tend to be more reserved. In the South, depending on the region, the population is considered more relaxed and fun-loving, or sometimes, lazy and conservative. These differences can be attributed to the beach environment of the Algarve coast but also to the rural, high-temperature environment of the interior.

From an outsider's perspective, what is most often heard about the Portuguese population is their hospitality, good social gatherings, and traditions. In my case, Margarida, I consider myself a reserved and objective person who values moments of fun but can also be caught by laziness, embodying a bit of each region of the country. On the other hand, I, Lara, think I'm

TEAM 4

hardworking, extroverted and friendly. We greatly appreciate the culture and traditions from all across our country, and as such, we take pride in its history.

In relation to the countries of our colleagues, starting with our neighbor Spain, we have the impression of a communicative and lively people. Regarding the German people, we perceive them as rude, hard workers, punctual and tall, and as for the Croatians, we think that Croatians would be lazy people, friendly, speak loudly and were small. After working with my colleagues, I confirm with joy our initial thoughts and add that the Germans aren't rude, and the Croatian people are energetic, communicative and tall!

After discussing the presumptions, the group reached the conclusion that most of the presuppositions are true, despite of the fact that Croatians are actually tall and, in general, they are not that lazy. It depends on each person's values. As for the Portuguese, they are quite calm and approachable.

To sum up, it is important to be aware of presuppositions and how they shape our understanding of language. They are a fundamental aspect of effective communication, and recognizing and addressing presuppositions can help avoid misunderstandings and promote clearer and more successful interactions.