

## Teaching unit 16: Grammar and code-switching in Singapore English

### Transcript

Three university friends, all native speakers of Singapore English, are talking about finding a time to meet:

Quan:	Have you got to go back to work?	1
Charles:	Under pressure uh.	2
Adam:	Never mind lah. That day give yourself a break ah. Got to have holiday.	3
	How about three days?	4
Quan:	Excuse me, cannot even promote holiday in front of him muh. Got to sweat you know. That means no break you know. Group pressure he cannot survive.	5 6 7
Charles:	Wah lau.	8
Adam:	Afterwards tell him want pressure lah. Let me sit on you. [...]	9
Charles:	Ya anyway we can go after church. After fourth service.	10
Quan:	Got time we can.	11
Adam:	Can lah. So we'll meet uh two to four. After fourth service. I mean David Kwong very long-winded. The only way end four thirty five lucky.	12 13

Later in the same exchange, Quan is defending himself against some teasing:

Quan:	Excuse me. She's forty-five. She has two kids and she's the one who has been trying to match-make me!	14 15
Charles:	We have a new generation woman uh.	16
Quan:	Ya. And her husband is a policeman.	17
Adam:	Short of saying he's a bouncer, right?	18
Quan:	And he's not as big as a bouncer uh. His son is bad enough. He's about twice my size. But he's not fat, you see. He's just big.	19 20

This extract is based on a conversation recorded for the Singapore component of the International Corpus of English: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/english-usage/projects/ice.htm>