Zadanie 4.
A selfie stick is undoubtedly a desirable piece of equipment, if not ‘a must have’ dictated by the latest trends. However, it seems that visitors to Disney theme parks will have to stick to the length of their arms for a selfie shot. Why? Because Walt Disney World has announced a ban on this gadget at its amusement parks. Any ban normally meets with strong objections, so there will certainly be those who will protest. In this case, however, the vast majority of visitors are likely to approve of it.
The park authorities claim the rule is to be enforced for safety reasons. It comes in response to an incident that occurred last week at one of Disney’s amusement parks. A roller coaster had to be stopped midway because one passenger decided to take a selfie and pulled out the elongated stick while the ride was in progress. This careless action posed a serious threat to passengers’ safety, but fortunately it was spotted by the staff in time to prevent any dangerous consequences. After the incident, many visitors tweeted their frustration. They claimed the roller coaster was brought to a standstill for nearly an hour and they couldn’t get off it. They thought the staff shouldn’t have kept them stranded on the roller coaster for so long.
Since selfie sticks appeared on the market, they’ve become a major problem at amusement parks. The use of this phone accessory is controversial and there have already been a few attempts to discourage its use at amusement parks. However, no regulations have been introduced so far and no fines imposed. For that reason, visitors are still free to use them. It is no surprise then that, following the recent incident, Walt Disney World will quite rightly officially ban selfie sticks entirely from its sites. The new policy will become operational on 30th July.

adapted from www.cinemablend.com

Zadanie 5.

Speaker 1.
At the age of 59, I considered starting a company to be somewhat risky. Yet, five years later, at 64, I’m the owner of a multimillion-dollar business which produces handbag organizers. The inspiration came from my disappointment with a beautiful purse I got from my son, which unfortunately failed to fulfil its role as it didn’t have any pockets to organize things. Not to hurt my son’s feelings, I didn’t tell him it was no use to me. Instead, I tried to improve it and unexpectedly came up with a design that would fit inside women’s handbags and make the contents more organized. I contacted somebody who could sew and when the prototype was ready, I found reliable manufacturers, and the business got into full swing.

adapted from www.businessknowhow.com

Speaker 2.
My wife and I thought that being one’s own boss could be very rewarding and decided to set up our own company. We didn’t want to take any risks so we did a lot of reading on the topic, used different resources and met several experts. We also carefully researched the market to find out what people really needed. That was quite time-consuming, but we really enjoyed the process. We realized there were many people who were either too busy or too lazy, or simply lacked the skills to make their own meals. We reached the conclusion that to cater for their needs we could start a company which prepares and delivers meals based on local organic ingredients. This is how Real Meals was born.

adapted from www.smallbusinessbc.ca
Speaker 3.
One day at a charity event, a concerned mother, knowing that I was a designer, asked if I could make a bracelet for her daughter, who suffered from diabetes. She explained that her daughter refused to wear any of the medical identification that was available on the market. That was dangerous for the girl. If her blood sugar got out of control, she could faint. Thanks to the bracelet the people around her would know what the problem was. The woman’s appeal made me consider starting a company developing medical accessories. I decided to go for it. I dealt with the paperwork involved in setting up the business and then went on to design a medical ID bracelet for diabetics. It was a great success.

adapted from www.businessnewsdaily.com

Speaker 4.
I worked for many years in a big corporation. I was tired of the rat race and unrealistic deadlines. I felt I needed a change. I considered opening a restaurant but I soon realized that I couldn’t afford it. Still, I didn’t want to give up on the food business, so I chose to run a food truck. The legal aspects of starting the business were really confusing, especially mobile vending laws. It took months to obtain the permits and insurance requirements needed to operate. There were other important issues to consider such as menus, product delivery and storage. Everything was so tiring that at some point I was really worn out and wanted to give up. But I survived this, and now I enjoy being my own boss.

adapted from www.foodtruckr.com

Speaker 5.
I am an extremely introverted and highly sensitive person. For this reason, it was difficult for me to find any conventional employment. Luckily, one day I came across a book by Barbara Winter entitled Making a Living Without a Job, and it really appealed to me. It showed me there was another way to earn money. I stopped looking for a “proper” job. I knew I had a gift for drawing so I decided to make use of it and became an illustrator. I sell prints of my artwork as well as products such as smartphone cases, throw pillows and bags featuring my art. I love my job and I can’t believe I get paid for drawing pictures!

adapted from www.femaleentrepreneurassociation.com
Interviewer: Today we’re talking to one of the architects involved in designing the High Line, an extremely popular park in New York. James, what makes the park unique?

James: The main difference from the other parks in New York is that it is an elevated structure which you can reach using steps, platforms and elevators. With its unexpected twists and turns, it looks very much like a ribbon that winds among high-rise buildings, stretching for more than a mile. The park was created on a former railroad track, which went out of use in 1982, and over the years fell into neglect and became overgrown with weeds and bushes. Many people wanted it demolished, but changing this elevated railroad into a park turned out to be a much better idea in the long run. Now the extraordinary design attracts crowds of visitors, who stroll along and watch the busy life of New York from up there.

Interviewer: How did the idea of transforming this neglected space into a park originate?

James: Well, when the railroad track fell into ruin, there were plans to pull it down and make room for new offices and residential buildings. But in 1999, two local people, Joshua David and Robert Hammond, came up with an idea for revitalizing the area. They set up the Friends of the High Line organization and started to campaign for the creation of the park. Many people living in this neighbourhood joined in. What followed was a series of disputes and negotiations with skeptical property owners and the city authorities. Friends of the High Line also gained the support of many celebrities, who signed their petition. The organization managed to raise funds, and finally in 2006 the decision was taken by the city mayor.

Interviewer: What were the most important aspects for architects to consider while working on this ambitious project?

James: There were lots of them. Preserving a slightly old-fashioned quality in an ever-evolving and modernizing city was a challenge we couldn’t miss. Obviously, we wanted to give visitors the feeling that they have come across a unique place, a kind of a magic garden. But our primary goal was to ensure safety. We wanted every detail, from the paths and benches to lighting and water features, to make people feel secure and comfortable in this place. Another important task was choosing plants that can survive in this difficult environment. We have very thin soil which gets very hot in summer and freezing cold in winter. That’s why we needed to use very hardy and resistant plants and find ways to supply a sufficient amount of water and nutrients to them. The plants have been brought from the prairie or other difficult environments and hopefully they’ll survive.

Interviewer: Is there something you are particularly proud of?

James: There are several things. One of the greatest features is the paving which has open joints, so when it rains the water falls through them and is collected, stored and then absorbed into the flower beds. We can demonstrate that about 85% of all the water that falls on the High Line stays on the High Line. We also hope that with all this greenery there will be some carbon reduction. There’s certainly a cooling effect with the shade the plants provide. All the materials are recyclable or come from sustainable sources. Overall, I think it’s a very eco-friendly design.

Interviewer: Well, thanks a lot, James.