Nvidia probes CEO affair as shares fall

LEVEL C1



I. WARM-UP

1. What kinds of news can move a company's share price?
2. Should a leader's private life affect their job? Why or why not?
3. How do markets react to uncertainty in your country?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

investigation
an official process to find out the facts about something

espionage
the secret collection of information for a government

allegation
a claim that someone did something wrong, not yet proven

compromise
to harm or put at risk something important, like secrets

sell-off
a quick fall in prices when many investors sell shares

analyst
a professional who studies markets and gives opinions

successor
the person who takes a job after the current person leaves

briefing
a meeting where important information is given

III. READING

Nvidia said it would conduct an independent investigation after chief executive Jensen Huang admitted an affair. The New York Times named the woman as Alice Huang and reported that US officials believe she was part of a Chinese espionage effort. China rejected the allegation, calling it groundless.

Nvidia's board said it had no reason to believe company secrets or US national security were compromised, but it opened the probe in light of recent reporting. The announcement triggered a sell-off: Nvidia shares fell about 4%, wiping nearly $200bn off its market value. The firm said Huang will cooperate.

He was asked to attend closed-door Congressional briefings about his interactions with Alice Huang and Nvidia's security protocols. A memo reported by US media said Secretary of State Marco Rubio had warned officials about the relationship.

Some leaders, including Elon Musk and US President Donald Trump, voiced support for Huang. Analysts argued the hit could be short-lived because Nvidia is central to AI.

Investors also noted governance risks: Huang owns around 3.5%, and Nvidia has a single-class voting structure, leaving him vulnerable to a board decision if a successor is needed.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **BBC News***: "Nvidia shares tumble over investigation into...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did Nvidia launch an investigation?
2. By how much did Nvidia's shares fall?
3. Who is the woman linked to the espionage claim?
4. What did Nvidia say about secrets or national security?
5. Why is Jensen Huang considered vulnerable to removal?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Do markets overreact to allegations, or is caution justified?
2. Should boards remove leaders for personal misconduct unrelated to work?
3. How much should national security shape corporate decisions?
4. Is founder control good for innovation, or risky for investors?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Ellipsis and substitution

Ellipsis and substitution cut repetition. Use so/neither + auxiliary + subject to say the same is true, and do so to replace a repeated action. Match the auxiliary to the first clause (sold → did; is → is).

"Nvidia said it would open a probe, and it **did so**.*"*
"Investors sold shares; **so did some funds**.*"*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. I can't predict markets; (can neither / neither can) my broker. _____
2. Analysts are cautious; (are so / so are) funds. _____
3. Small investors dislike risk; (so do / do so) big banks. _____
4. This concern is real; that (one / ones) is minor. _____
5. I didn't sell my shares; (neither did / did neither) my sister. _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.



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I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 10 minutes vocabulary, 12–15 minutes reading and comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 12–15 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach or elicit investigation, espionage, allegation, sell-off, successor; check understanding of market value and voting structure.
- Run a first silent read, then a second read for key numbers and names. Sensitive topic: the story involves an affair and unproven spying allegations about named people, so treat them as claims and keep comments away from anyone's nationality; start discussion in pairs and allow students to speak about the news rather than personal lives.
- Differentiation: stronger students summarise each paragraph in one sentence; others highlight evidence for two opposing investor views (short-lived vs. lasting impact).

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Start with a quick poll, then pair students to give one reason for each side before sharing.
2. Set up two lines: one for removal, one against. After 2 minutes, swap partners and test arguments.
3. Have groups list two company risks and two benefits linked to security concerns, then compare.
4. Split the room: pro-founder control vs. dispersed control. After debate, switch sides and restate.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Debate: In teams, prepare and deliver a 2-minute case for or against Huang remaining as CEO.

Writing: Write a 100-word investor note explaining the 4% drop and advising hold, buy, or sell.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Ellipsis and substitution

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did Nvidia launch an investigation?
   Huang admitted an affair, and reports linked the woman to Chinese espionage.
2. By how much did Nvidia's shares fall?
   About 4%.
3. Who is the woman linked to the espionage claim?
   Alice Huang.
4. What did Nvidia say about secrets or national security?
   It said it had no reason to believe they were compromised.
5. Why is Jensen Huang considered vulnerable to removal?
   He owns about 3.5% and the single-class structure limits his control.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. I can't predict markets; (can neither / neither can) my broker. **neither can**
2. Analysts are cautious; (are so / so are) funds. **so are**
3. Small investors dislike risk; (so do / do so) big banks. **so do**
4. This concern is real; that (one / ones) is minor. **one**
5. I didn't sell my shares; (neither did / did neither) my sister. **neither did**

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Ellipsis and substitution cut repetition. Use so/neither + auxiliary + subject to say the same is true, and do so to replace a repeated action. Match the auxiliary to the first clause (sold → did; is → is). (Examples constructed.)

> *"Nvidia said it would open a probe, and it* **did so**.*"*
> *"Investors sold shares;* **so did some funds**.*"*