

Boiler rooms

Level

Intermediate and above

Tasks

Discussing whether or not 'shares' are a good investment
 Choosing the most likely way to complete a report extract on scams
 Reading a text about boiler rooms scams
 Identifying words in the article from their definitions
 Discussing questions arising from the article

How to use the lesson

- 1 Tell students that this lesson is about a type of crime connected with buying shares. Hand out the worksheet. Students in pairs consider their answer and discuss this with a partner. Elicit some responses and the reasons for those answers. Ask follow-up questions such as: *are high-risk shares or low-risk shares a better investment? Does anyone who owns shares have any advice about good possible investments?*
- 2 Focus students on the 'vocabulary box' and check they know what a scam is. Ask them to read the report extract. They should choose the best answer and then check their choice by scanning the article.

Answers

(a) 200 million (b) Spain

- 3 Students read the complete article. Ask them to summarise what happens in a boiler room scam. You may wish to look at any useful vocabulary, such as: *e.g. fraud / mis-selling / victim / fall for / give in / initiate.*
- 4 Ask students to identify the words from their definitions.

Answers

(a) watchdog (b) fraudster (c) worthless
 (d) bullying (e) persistence (f) misrepresent

- 5 Divide the class into small groups to discuss the questions. Students report back on their answers to the whole class. Encourage class discussion. Finish the lesson by giving language feedback.

Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boiler_room_\(business\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boiler_room_(business))

<http://www.cityoflondon.police.uk/CityPolice/ECD/Fraud/boilerroom.htm>

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/working_lunch/7375384.stm

http://www.oft.gov.uk/oft_at_work/consumer_initiatives/scams/