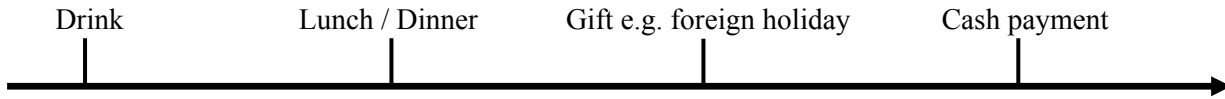


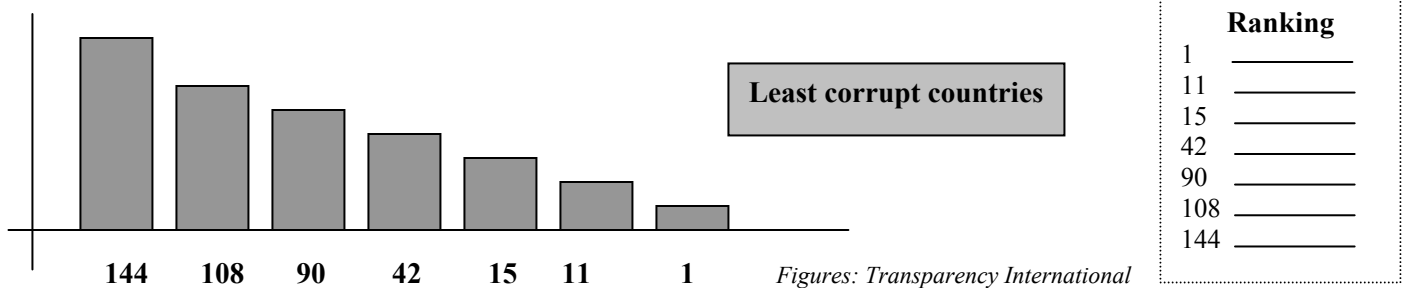
Bribery and corruption

This month sees the world's first ever anti-corruption day. Is bribery in the business world on the increase?

1 Which of these are acceptable to offer / receive in order to secure a contract? Compare your answer with a partner.



2 Complete the ranking key to the graph with the following countries: *Argentina, Finland, Germany, Italy, Nigeria, Russia, UK*.



3 Scan paragraph two of the article and check your answers to exercise 2.

Transparency International The efforts of TI (Transparency International) to raise awareness of *bribery* and *corruption* culminated on 9 December 2004 – the United Nations first anti-corruption day. TI is a non-profit organisation working against corrupt international business and government practices.

Giving and receiving bribes in order to facilitate doing business is common practice. But what is a bribe, and what is a legitimate commission? This was the question in the recent Munich football stadium scandal, where it was claimed that 3.2 million Euros were paid to enable the Austrian *bidder*, Alpine, to win the building *contract* for the Munich Arena.

In a recently published chart, Finland leads the way as the most uncorrupt country in the world, followed by New Zealand. High on the list are Denmark, Switzerland and Sweden. Of the G7 members, the UK is at 11, with Germany at 15. Russia is at position 90, Italy at 42 and Argentina at 108. Nigeria, notorious for bribery and corruption, is at 144, just above Bangladesh. The index of 146 countries omits some countries with high levels of corruption, because there is not enough evidence to make an assessment.

The oil industry has frequently been criticised for making payments to corrupt governments. Shell claims that it is a 'no bribes, fair competition business' and publishes a chart of internal reported cases of bribery. However, critics say that oil companies could help end corruption by making public details of the payments made to governments and state-controlled oil firms. No matter what preventative measures are in place, will corruption always be a part of doing business?

4 Read the whole article and summarise the key points.

5 Create a word diagram for each of the words in *italics* in the article. Make sentences with the words and expressions.

6 Work in small groups. You are on a committee for business ethics. Decide on the outcomes of the following cases and present your ideas to the class.

- (a) A salesman pays a government official to help his company win a difficult contract
- (b) A shareholder of a team bribes a referee in order to win an important football match
- (c) The CEO of a company donates company funds to a political party