

Futurology

Level

Intermediate and above

Tasks

Deciding the movement of a set of trend words

Scanning an article to find the trend words from exercise 1

Reading the article about predictions for 2009

Identifying one word which does not collocate with 'prediction'

Making and discussing students' own predictions for the coming year

How to use the lesson

- 1 Draw the symbols (↑), (↓) and (→) on the board. Hand out the worksheet. Ask students to draw the appropriate symbol next to each word in the box. Check the answers. Tell students the lesson will be about making predictions for the coming year.

Answers

(↑): *grow / rise / increase*

(↓): *fall / collapse / decline / drop*

(→): *remain stable*

- 2 Ask students to scan the article and underline any words (or derivatives) from exercise 1 that they can find in a minute.

Answers

Paragraph 1: *(grow up)*

Paragraph 2: *fall / collapse / decline / growth*

Paragraph 3: *fall*

Paragraph 4: *increase / drop / remain stable*

- 3 Students read the whole article. Ask them to tell you what the tone of the article is. This could be described as 'ironic' (e.g. "there's a surprise" in paragraph 2) or 'gently humorous' (e.g. "the wisdom of the young" in paragraph 1; "we would all be rich now" in paragraph 4). You may wish to look at any useful vocabulary, such as: *hindsight / handy / foreseen / dare*.

- 4 Ask students to identify one word in each line that does not collocate with 'prediction'.

Answers

4.1 – (d) *forecast*

4.2 – (a) *stock*

- 5 Allow students to complete their grid with their three predictions. Divide the class into small groups and let students present their predictions to the other students. Encourage discussion. Elicit an example of some of the most interesting predictions from each group, and ask the students to explain the reasons behind their predictions. 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/Futurology>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5THpC1yDQG4>

http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/155590/top_tech_predictions_for_2009.html

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/7727893.stm>