

5 The rise and fall of Enron

Overview

Students read a jumbled text about the history of Enron and put it in order using discourse markers as a guide. They then discuss the causes of the company's downfall.

Preparation

One copy of the worksheet for each student.

Procedure

- 1 Introduce the topic by asking students to tell you what they know about the company, Enron. Help with vocabulary and check/pre-teach: *to be appointed, to launch, to invest, to acquire, to merge, to expand, to diversify, to lie, to go bankrupt, to be sacked, to resign, trading, share price, regulator.*
- 2 Divide the class into pairs and give each student a copy of the worksheet. In pairs, students put the events in exercise 1 in order. Tell students to first read through the sentences and decide if they relate to the initial successful stage of the company or if they relate to the collapse of the company. This will make ordering the sentences less daunting as they will be dealing with smaller chunks of the text. Monitor, helping with vocabulary as necessary.
- 3 Check the sequence by asking students to read the history of Enron aloud in the correct order.
- 4 Look at exercise 2 with the class and explain any unfamiliar vocabulary. In pairs or small groups, students discuss the question. Monitor, helping as necessary.
- 5 Have a class feedback session.

Answers

1 D 2 A 3 F 4 K 5 H 6 C 7 L 8 G 9 I 10 J
11 B 12 M 13 E