

## Pensions 'black hole'

### Level

Intermediate

### Tasks

Talking about personal financial plans for retirement  
Choosing which word does not collocate with *pension*  
Reading an article about the pensions deficit  
Identifying key words in the article  
Discussing issues arising from the article

### How to use the lesson

- 1 Ask students if they are confident about their own pension arrangements.
- 2 Students look at five words and identify which one does not collocate with *pension*. Encourage students to use a dictionary if necessary.

#### *Answer*

*money*

- 3 Ask students if they can give any reasons why there is a pensions 'black hole'. See if they can suggest any solutions to the problem. Students then read and compare their ideas with those in the article.

- 4 Ask students to find words or phrases in the article with the given definitions.

#### *Answers*

*a deficit    b risk    c time bomb    d axing    e contribution*

If relevant, in addition to the collocations in exercise 2, focus on other collocations with *pension*: *pensions deficit* (paragraph 1); *pensions 'black hole'* (paragraph 1); *pensions industry* (paragraph 3).

- 5 Students discuss the questions in groups, then report their ideas to the class. Hold a class feedback session.

### Related websites

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

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/>

<http://www.agepositive.gov.uk/>