

Enron

Level

Upper-intermediate

Tasks

Checking students know a set of vocabulary items connected with fraud

Completing a timeline for the US energy company, Enron

Reading an article about Enron

Matching words to create collocations from the article

Discussing points arising from the article

How to use the lesson

- 1 Write 'Enron' on the board and find out a few things that the students know about the collapse of the company. Hand out the worksheet. After students have checked that they know the vocabulary, elicit examples of some of these words in context. For example, do they have an example of insider trading? Which company were Enron's auditors? etc.
- 2 Ask students to complete the missing dates on the timeline by scanning the article.

Answers

(a) 1985 (b) 2001 (c) 2001 (d) 2002

- 3 Ask students to read the whole article and summarise the key points. Deal with any useful vocabulary such as: *juror / deliberate / ignorance / partnerships / to convict*.
- 4 Ask students to create collocations by matching the words in the boxes. Tell them that they can find all the collocations in the article.

Answers

innovative company *corporate greed* *to claim ignorance* *to shred documents*
balance sheet *bonus cheques* *to announce huge losses* *to create partnerships*

- 5 Ask students to work alone and rank (A) – (F) in order of seriousness, and decide which they consider crimes. Ask them to decide on a suitable fine or prison sentence for these crimes. Students then work in pairs or small groups and compare their answers. Finish the lesson with feedback on each group's discussion. Give students any useful language feedback.

Related websites

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

<http://www.enron.com/corp/>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enron>

<http://money.cnn.com/news/specials/enron/>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/enron/0,11337,609866,00.html>