

Economic round-up

Level

Intermediate

Tasks

Deciding if financial terms are positive or negative

Reading an economic report and identifying these expressions in the text

Identifying more economic terms in the text

Checking sets of collocations in order to find the "odd word out"

Discussing points arising from the report

How to use the lesson

1 Tell students that they will be looking at a report about the economy in Japan and ask students to predict if they think the text will be positive or negative. Ask them what they think the current global economic outlook is.

Issue the worksheet and ask students to read through the economic terms and check they know which are positive and which are negative.

Answers

Positive *upturn, buoyant, growth, recovery, pick up*

Negative *downturn, slow-down, stagnation, slump, recession, gloomy, bankruptcy*

2 Ask students to read the article and identify which terms are in the text.

Answers

downturn (paragraph 1) upturn (paragraph 3) slow-down, stagnation, slump, recession (paragraph 5)

growth (paragraph 2 x 2, paragraph 4) recovery (paragraph 3, 4) pick up, bankruptcy (paragraph 3)

Then ask students to check whether the predictions they made about the Japanese and global economies at the start were correct, according to the text.

3 Ask students to read through the text again and to underline any more words they can find which are positive, negative or neutral when describing the economy.

Answers

Positive *grown / growing, raising, highest level, expansion / expanded, investment, drive forward*

Negative *slower, fell, struggling, weakest level, sharp drop*

Neutral *unchanged*

4 Ask students to find the one word in each line which does not collocate with the adjective on the left. If appropriate, ask students to create sentences or practise asking questions using these expressions. Another idea would be to take the business pages of some newspapers into class and ask students to see if they can find any of these collocations, or any others, in context.

Answers

a income b bankruptcy c recession d slump

5 Students discuss their answers to the questions, 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.japan-guide.com/e/e644.html>

<http://www.worldeconomist.com/>