

## High crimes

### Level

Upper intermediate and above

### Tasks

Matching words with their definitions  
 Scanning and reading an article about a recent price-fixing scandal  
 Identifying words and phrases in the article from their synonyms  
 Discussing points arising from the article

### How to use the lesson

- 1 Tell students that this lesson is about a crime in the business world. Hand out the worksheet. Ask students to match the words with their definitions.

#### Answers

(1) – (c)      (2) – (e)      (3) – (d)      (4) – (a)      (5) – (b)

- 2 Ask students to scan the article and underline any words from exercise 1.

#### Answers

Paragraph 1: *colluded / they blew the whistle*

Paragraph 2: *price-fixing*

Paragraph 3: *conspiracy / cartel*

Paragraph 4: *price-fixing*

- 3 Students read the whole article. They should summarise what happened – that BA and Virgin Atlantic colluded to fix the price of the surcharge on fuel; VA blew the whistle. You may wish to look at any useful vocabulary at this point, such as: *got away with / incentive / damaging*.

- 4 Ask students to identify the words and expressions from their definitions:

#### Answers

(a) <i>a double-whammy</i>	(b) <i>scot-free</i>
(c) <i>alleged price-fixing</i>	(d) <i>a long haul flight</i>
(e) <i>to breach a rule</i>	(f) <i>hard to swallow</i>
(g) <i>the fines are too steep</i>	(h) <i>restore its reputation</i>

- 5 Ask students to work in small groups to discuss the questions. When they have finished, ask for feedback on anything interesting the groups spoke about. See if other students in the class agree with the punishment decided in item (c). Encourage whole class discussion. Finish the lesson by providing language feedback.

### Related websites

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

[http://www.britishairways.com/travel/bapress/public/en\\_gb](http://www.britishairways.com/travel/bapress/public/en_gb)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British\\_airways#Price-fixing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_airways#Price-fixing)

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