

## Financial crisis

### Level

Intermediate/Upper-intermediate

### Tasks

- Replacing the missing letters in a set of words which collocate with 'money'
- Scanning the transcript of a podcast in order to identify the key items
- Reading the transcript of the podcast about the critical situation in lending money
- Identifying a number of words and expressions in the transcript from their definitions
- Discussing points arising from the article

### How to use the lesson

- 1 Tell students that this lesson is about the current concerns about lending money. Hand out the worksheet. Ask students to complete the missing vowels in the verbs and create sentences with the collocations, e.g. *I never lend money to anyone / Never invest in a new car* etc.

#### Answers

(a) lend (b) borrow (c) save (d) invest (e) withdraw

- 2 Ask students to scan the transcript of the podcast and put the items in the order that they occur.

#### Answers

(b) (a) (d) (c)

- 3 Ask students to read the whole transcript. Ask them to summarise what has happened in the US (collapse of part of the mortgage sector) and the UK (the Bank of England lending money to Northern Rock). You may wish to look at useful vocabulary, such as: *upheaval / critical / panicking / bonds*.

- 4 Ask students use the definitions to identify words and expressions in the transcript.

#### Answers

(a) undermine (b) defaulted (c) collapse (d) as a last resort (e) squeeze

- 5 Divide the class into groups and ask students to discuss the questions. Monitor the discussions. Ask one student from each group to report back to the class any interesting points discussed. Finish the lesson by providing language feedback.

### Related websites

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

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subprime\\_lending](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subprime_lending)

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in\\_depth/business/2007/creditrunch/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/business/2007/creditrunch/default.stm)

<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/>

<http://www.northernrock.co.uk/>