

Cost-cutting

Level

Intermediate

Tasks

Discussing ways in which students have cut down on spending, in order to save money

Skimming an article to match headings to paragraphs

Reading an article about cost cutting

Identifying words in the article from their definitions

Discussing issues arising from the article

How to use the lesson

- 1 Check that students know the word 'recession'. Hand out the worksheet and ask them to talk about ways in which they are saving money at home. After students have discussed the ideas in the box, elicit feedback. Encourage students to add their own ideas.
- 2 Students skim the article and match the headings with the correct paragraph.

Answers

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

- 3 Students read the article about cutting costs. Ask them to list the cost-cutting measures mentioned in the article. You may wish to look at any useful vocabulary such as: *going bust / make redundant / outsource / go under*.
- 4 Ask students to identify words in the article from their definitions.

Answers

(a) *downturn* (b) *to slash* (c) *overheads* (d) *bonus(es)* (e) *initiative* (f) *profit margins*

- 5 Allow students to discuss the questions in small groups. Ask groups to report some of their ideas to the whole class. Finish the lesson by giving language feedback.

Related websites

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

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/7684846.stm>

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

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/interactive/2009/jan/22/recession>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/7495340.stm>