

## Taxing the rich

### Level

Intermediate and above

### Tasks

Deciding if particular words go before or after the word 'tax' to create some collocations

Completing the missing countries on a graph of tax levels in Europe

Reading an article about income tax

Finding the odd word out which does not form a collocation with the word 'tax'

Discussing questions arising from the article

### How to use the lesson

- 1 Write the word 'tax' on the board and ask students what first comes into their minds! Hand out the worksheet and ask students to decide if the words in the box go 'before' or 'after' the word 'tax'. Elicit students' answers.

#### Answers

Before: *inheritance / income*

After: *avoidance / relief / exile / evasion / threshold / loophole*

Students can create their own sentences with some of these collocations.

- 2 Ask students to look at the graph and try to complete the key with the missing countries in the list. Students then scan the article to check their answers.

Answers: A – Monaco    C – Spain    D – Germany    E – UK    F – Sweden

- 3 Students read the whole article about tax. Ask them what happened in the UK. What is the tone of the article? Suggested answers: mildly sarcastic / gently humorous. You may wish to look at any useful vocabulary, such as: *well-off / citizen / resident / bump into*.

- 4 Ask students to find the 'odd word out' in each line.

Answers: 4.1 (d) *trust*    4.2 (b) *fire*    4.3 (c) *banking*

- 5 Students discuss the questions in small groups. Ask groups to report back on 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://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tax\\_avoidance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tax_avoidance)

<http://www.henleyglobal.com/tax-planning/tax-planning/>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/8024484.stm>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tax\\_rates\\_of\\_Europe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tax_rates_of_Europe)