

Banking on profit

Level

Intermediate

Tasks

Discussing with a partner how satisfied students are with banking services
Completing a Fact File about the HSBC bank by guessing the correct figures
Checking the figures by scanning an article
Matching expressions found in the article
Summarising the main points of the article
Discussing issues arising from the article

How to use the lesson

1 Elicit the names of some of the banks that your students use. Issue the worksheet and ask students to decide how satisfied they are with the services of the bank, and then mark a cross at the appropriate point on the line. These services could be banking services, or other areas such as offering financial advice, giving loans etc. Students then compare and justify their answers. Ask for general feedback.

2 Ask students if they have heard of the HSBC bank. (The HSBC Group is named after its founding member, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, and took over Midland bank in the UK in 1992; it is now second only to Citigroup). Ask students to complete the Fact File by guessing the figures.

3 Ask students to scan paragraph 2 of the article to check their answers to 2.

Answers

Number of countries: 80

Number of offices: 9,500

Number of customers: 90 million

4 Ask students to match up the expressions that are found in the article.

Answers

*a) pre-tax profit b) investment banking c) consumer borrowing d) interest rate e) fat cat
f) capitalist economy*

5 Ask students to read the complete article and to summarise the two views on profit. Encourage them to use as many of the expressions from the previous task as possible.

6 Ask students to work in groups to discuss their answers to the questions. Monitor the discussion. Ask some students to report their ideas to the class, then hold a class feedback session.

Related websites

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

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

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/low/business/3122111.stm>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/editor/story/0,12900,1161386,00.html>

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/financial_services/banking/bankreview/fin_bank_review.cfm