

The future of retirement

Level

Intermediate

Tasks

Discussing retirement plans

Completing the key to a graph about retirement preparations in different countries

Reading an article about attitudes to retiring

Finding the 'odd-word-out' from lists of possible collocations

Completing a survey on retirement

How to use the lesson

- 1 Ask what the official retirement age is for men and women, and write it on the board. Find out when students intend to retire: before then, on the official date, or afterwards. If appropriate, collate the results on the board. Hand out the worksheet and allow students to discuss their answers. Elicit feedback.
- 2 Ask students to study the graph and complete the key by guessing. Students then scan paragraph two of the article to check their answers.

Answers

(1) Canada (2) US (3) UK (4) Brazil (5) Japan

- 3 Students read the whole article. Ask them to summarise the attitudes to retirement mentioned in the various countries in the survey. Deal with any vocabulary questions at this point, such as: mandatory, reinvention, fulfilment, terminate, pension.
- 4 Ask students to find one word in each line that does not collocate with the word in **bold**. Check that students understand the meaning of the other collocations.

Answers

- 1 (a) to make
- 2 (d) training
- 3 (b) forward
- 4 (c) to save

- 5 Ask students to complete the questionnaire individually. They then work in small groups to compare and justify their answers. Ask each group to report back their ideas. Finish the lesson by providing any language feedback.

Related websites

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

http://www.hsbc.com/public/groupsite/retirement_future/en/_overview_future_of_retirement.jhtml

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/business/2002/pensions_crisis/default.stm

<https://retirementplans2.vanguard.com/VGApp/pe/PubHome>

<http://www.fundadvice.com/retirement/>