

Business crime

Level

Upper intermediate and above

Tasks

Discussing the nature of certain crimes

Reading an article about crime in the business world and the workplace

Identifying words and expressions in the article from their definitions

Discussing and deciding on suitable sentences for various crimes

How to use the lesson

- 1 Write the word 'crime' on the board and draw a spidergram to elicit the names of some common crimes. Hand out the worksheet and ask students to explain what the crimes in the box involve. See if they have specific famous or local examples of any of these crimes.
- 2 Ask students to scan the text and underline any crimes they find.

Answers

Paragraph 1: *secretary who stole millions / forging signatures*

Paragraph 2: *workplace theft / create fake invoice / steal money*

Paragraph 3: *insider trading / failure to disclose losses / forgery / tax evasion*

- 3 Students read the whole article. What are their reactions to the crimes or sentences mentioned?
- 4 Ask students to find words or expressions in the article from the definitions.

Answers

(a) *to spot* (b) *fake* (c) *scandals* (d) *disclose* (e) *tax haven* (f) *creative accounting*

- 5 If appropriate, provide helpful vocabulary such as: suspended sentence / fine. Students work in small groups and agree on a sentence for each crime. Encourage students to impose conditions – “if it were a large sum of money...” During class feedback, see if the class can agree on a sentence for each crime. After the discussion, provide language feedback.

Related websites

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

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/businessretailcrime/>

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/reduction/businesscrime/>

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

http://www.economist.com/agenda/displayStory.cfm?story_id=3470967