

## Software piracy

### Level

Intermediate to Upper intermediate

### Tasks

Guessing the answers to some statistics about computer software

Reading an article about piracy of a new computer program

Identifying words in the text from the meanings given

Discussing points arising from the article

### How to use the lesson

1 Ask students to tell you how technology literate they are: beginner, intermediate or advanced? Hand out the worksheet. Ask students which Microsoft products they use, or are used, in their company. Common products include the computers' operating system (e.g. *Windows 2000*, *Windows NT*, *Windows XP*) and office products (e.g. *Word*, *Excel*, *Access*, *Power Point*). Some students may say their company uses other operating systems such as *Linux* or *Mac computers*.

2 Ask students to guess the answers to the three statements and then compare their answers with a partner. (Students will be able to check their answers in the article that follows.)

#### Answers

(a) \$10 billion

(b) 2005

(c) 90%

3 Ask students to read the article and check their answers in 2. Ask the more computer literate students in the class to explain terms such as *Windows media player* (a plug-in which allows users to see video and hear audio on a website).

4 Ask students to identify the words in the article from the definitions listed.

#### Answers

(a) *unlicensed*

(b) *code name*

(c) *supersede*

(d) *stifle*

(e) *disclose*

5 Students discuss their answers to the questions in groups, then report their ideas to the class. Hold a class feedback session.

### Related websites

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

<http://www.microsoft.com/piracy/>

<http://members.microsoft.com/partner/isv/longhorn.aspx>

<http://www.bsa.org/usa/antipiracy/>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/652150.stm>