

Management vs Unions

Level

Pre-intermediate / Intermediate

Tasks

Comparing the number of hours students work per week

Matching nouns with their adjectives and scanning an article for these words

Reading an article about the 40 hour week

Identifying words from their definitions

Discussing issues arising from the article

How to use the lesson

1 Write the figures 35 / 37.5 / 40 / 45 / 45+ on the board. Ask students to tell you the length of the typical working week in their country. Check that students understand what a union is and does. Hand out the worksheet. Students note down the two figures (hours contracted to work / hours they really work per week) and compare their figures with a partner. Elicit some answers.

2 Ask students to match the nouns with the corresponding adjectives. Check the meaning of the words.

Answers

*manufacturer – manufacturing / manager – managing / efficiency – efficient / competition – competitive
flexibility – flexible*

3 Ask students to scan the article and highlight as many words as they can in just one minute.

Answers

<i>working</i>	<i>(paragraph 2)</i>	<i>competition</i>	<i>(paragraph 4)</i>
<i>flexibility</i>	<i>(paragraph 2)</i>	<i>manufacturer</i>	<i>(paragraph 4)</i>
<i>worker</i>	<i>(paragraph 2)</i>	<i>efficiency</i>	<i>(paragraph 4)</i>
<i>manager</i>	<i>(paragraph 3)</i>		

Not in the article: manufacturing / efficient / managing / competitive / flexible

4 Ask students to read the whole article and summarise the problems that the management face.

5 Ask students to identify words in the article from the definitions.

Answers

(a) threatening (b) conflict (c) media (d) tactic (e) blackmail

6 Ask students to discuss the questions in small groups. Students then report their ideas back to the class.

Related websites

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

<http://www.siemens.com/index.jsp>

<http://www.daimlerchrysler.com/dccom>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Working_week

<http://www.eiro.eurofound.eu.int/2001/01/feature/uk0101111f.html>