

# The Japanese economy

## Level

Intermediate and above

## Tasks

Discussing Japan and Japanese products

Labelling a line graph of the Japanese economy in recent years

Reading an article about the Japanese economy

Focusing on nouns and verbs connected with economy

Writing a short economic report about another country

## How to use the lesson

- 1 Find out who has been to Japan and elicit any interesting stories about the country and culture. Hand out the worksheet and get students to list the number of Japanese products they own. Typically this will include cars (Honda, Toyota), cameras (Nikon), computers (Toshiba) and electrical products (Sony). With financial students, you could ask them to predict the content of the article from the title.
- 2 Ask students to scan the article in order to find the words / expressions missing in the Key.

### Answers

- (1) *Boom years*                      (2) *Asian financial crisis*                      (3) *Economic stagnation*  
 (4) *'road to recovery'*              (5) *Acquisition of UFJ*

- 3 Ask students to read the whole article and find out what they predict for the future of the Japanese economy. Note: IMF is a financial agency, part of the UN, which provides loans.
- 4 Ask students to complete the nouns by filling in the missing vowels. Get students to define the nouns and consider which have verbs. If appropriate, work on word stress. (Note: some verbs have slightly different meanings e.g. *recede / deflate*).

### Answers

- (a) *debt*                      (b) *boom (to boom)*                      (c) *recession (to recede)*                      (d) *inflation (to inflate)*  
 (e) *deflation (to deflate)*              (f) *recovery (to recover)*              (g) *losses (to lose)*                      (h) *stagnation (to stagnate)*  
 (i) *lending (to lend)*                      (j) *boost (to boost)*

- 5 Ask students to work in small groups and write a short economic report for another country. They can use the Internet to search for information. When presenting their report to the class, ask them to devise a graph, or write keywords on the board or an OHT. After each presentation, the rest of the class should try and predict the country's economic outlook.

## Related websites

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

<http://www.ufj.co.jp/english/index.html>

<http://www.mtfg.co.jp/english/>

<http://www.japan-guide.com/>

<http://www.site-by-site.com/asia/japan/astock.htm>