

Recession: Teaching suggestions

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Activity 1

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1. Put the students in pairs or small groups to explain the difference between the words.
2. Let the students work together for a short time before stopping the activity.
3. Elicit feedback. **Answers: economical means 'good value for money/highly efficient use of a resource' and economic means 'financial'.**

Activity 2

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1. Get a student to read the instructions out loud and check that the students understand them.
2. Students work alone before checking in pairs or small groups.
3. Stop the activity and elicit feedback.

Answers: 1. economic 2. economical 3. economical 4. economic

Activity 3

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1. Get a student to read the instructions out loud and check that the students understand them.
2. Students work alone before checking in pairs or small groups.
3. Elicit feedback. **Answers: 1. credit crunch 2. nationalising/bailing..out 3. capitalism 4. gone bankrupt 5. deflation 6. unemployment 7. defaults 8. quantitative easing 9. The Great Depression 10. economic crisis.**

Activity 4

1. Let the students begin their conversation in pairs or small groups.
2. Monitor closely then stop the activity and elicit feedback.

Activity 5

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If your students don't have access to computers in the classroom, set this for homework.

Answers: 1. Gross Domestic Product 2. The Wall Street Crash 3. b) October 29th. 4. See below.

Quick Quiz

Read the clues below and write the solutions on a piece of paper. Then take the first letter of each answer and rearrange them to find a word connected with this month's Talking Point subject: 'Recession'

1. Some experts feel that this definition does not take enough data ...INTO..... account.
2. The American stock market collapsed in 1929 in the Wall Street ...CRASH....
3. The Great Depression had far-reaching consequences and ...SPARKED.... off depressions in many other countries.
4. Global trade was crippled andINDIVIDUAL..... nations struggled for years to rebuild their economies.
5. It is generally accepted that a recession is when a country's GDPSHRINKS.....by less than 10%.
6. There is a ...RULE.... of thumb by which you can decide for yourself whether there is a recession or a depression in your country.

Answer: CRISIS (C for Crash [2], R for Rule [6], I for Into [1], S for Sparked [3], I for Individual [4], S for Shrinks [5]).

Activity 6

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This activity can be set as homework to be followed up and consolidated in a future lesson generating more discussion. What did most students feel about the question? What reasons were put forward in each case? Did the students read anything which changed their minds on the topic? (etc.)