

TEACHER'S NOTES

unicorn

www.macmillandictionary.com

Overview: Suggestions for using the **Macmillan Dictionary BuzzWord** article on *unicorn* and the associated worksheet.

Total time for worksheet activities: 35 minutes

Suggested level: Intermediate and above

1. If you intend to use the worksheets in class, go to the *BuzzWord* article at the web address given at the beginning of the worksheet and print off a copy of the article. Make a copy of the worksheet and the *BuzzWord* article for each student. You might find it helpful not to print a copy of the Key for each student but to check the answers as a class.
2. If all the members of your class have computer access, ask them to open the worksheet before they look at the *BuzzWord* article link. Make sure they do not scroll down to the Key until they have completed each exercise.
3. Encourage students to read through the questions in Exercise 1 before they look at the *BuzzWord* article. Ask them to read through the whole article carefully and answer the questions. Tell them to compare their answers with a partner, then check the answers as a class.
4. Before doing Exercise 2, make sure students are aware that the words in the exercise appear in the same order as they appear in the text. Point out that the verb *provide* collocates with the noun *respite*. Point out that *granddaddy* is used with the definite article and followed by *of* ('Paramount is the granddaddy of music record labels').
5. Ask students to complete Exercise 3 without looking back at the text. They should be able to answer most of the questions if they have a good general idea of the sense of the text.
6. Encourage students to use a monolingual dictionary, such as the [Macmillan Dictionary](#), to help them with Exercise 4. Point out that *well* can also be used with *established* but it is not the correct answer here as there is only one solution for each word.
7. In Exercise 5, ask students to complete the exercise and discuss their answers with a partner. Check the answers as a class.
8. Students should be able to complete Exercise 6 without looking back at the text, as most of these online companies are very well-known.
9. As a final discussion activity, ask students if they use any of the online *unicorns* mentioned and, if so, why they use them and what their opinion of these companies is. Ask if they know and use any other successful online companies. Ask them what services these companies provide.

WORKSHEET

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Go to the **Macmillan Dictionary BuzzWord** article at:
www.macmillandictionary.com/buzzword/entries/unicorn.html

1 Find the information

Read the **BuzzWord** article on *unicorn* and answer these questions.

1. What, according to the article, are the two meanings of the word *unicorn*?
2. How many new *unicorns* have there been in Europe during the past year?
3. How many of these new European *unicorns* have been in the UK?
4. Which company is described as a *super-unicorn*?
5. What is a *decacorn*?
6. From which language does the word *unicorn* come?

2 Find the word

Look in the text and find the following words and phrases. The first letters of the words or phrases are given. The words are in the order in which they appear in the text.

1. a noun meaning *a short period of rest from having to deal with a difficult situation*. r _____
2. a noun meaning *someone who writes a dictionary*. l _____
3. a four-word phrase meaning *not happening very often or not existing in many places*.
 f _____ a _____ f _____ b _____
4. a noun meaning *the oldest or most famous example of something*. g _____
5. a two-word noun phrase meaning *money invested in a new business that may or may not be successful*.
 v _____ c _____
6. an adjective meaning *recently formed and still developing, without much experience*. f _____
7. a noun meaning *a state of uncontrolled activity*. t _____
8. a two-word noun phrase meaning *a period when a country's economy is in a bad state and banks are not willing to lend much money*. c _____ c _____

3 Comprehension check

Are these statements true or false according to the text? Correct the false statements.

1. A *super-unicorn* is a company worth over one billion US dollars.
2. *Unicorns* are generally no more than ten years old.
3. Most *unicorns* are web-based companies.
4. *Unicorns* are very rare in San Francisco's Silicon Valley.
5. The word *unicorn* dates back to the Middle English period.
6. There are hardly any animal metaphors in the financial sector.

WORKSHEET

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4 Two-word phrases

Match the words in the left-hand column with those in the right-hand column to make phrases from the definitions and text.

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1. consumer | a. something |
| 2. web | b. established |
| 3. thirty | c. called |
| 4. well | d. oriented |
| 5. newly | e. educated |
| 6. so | f. based |

5 Animal metaphors

Match the animal metaphors from the financial sector with their meanings.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. bull market | a. a small recovery in the price of declining stock |
| 2. bear market | b. unwillingness to buy or sell in the stock market |
| 3. deer market | c. an upward trend in the stock market |
| 4. cash cow | d. a very bad investment |
| 5. dead cat bounce | e. a business venture generating large profits |
| 6. dog | f. a downward trend in the stock market |

6 Online companies

Complete the descriptions of the online companies using the words in the box.

photo sharing	fashion	music
lodging	file hosting	property

1. Asos is an online _____ company.
2. Spotify is an online _____ service.
3. Dropbox is an online _____ service.
4. Pinterest is an online _____ site.
5. Zoopla is an online _____ website.
6. Airbnb is an online _____ website.

KEY

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KEY

1 Find the information

1. a start-up whose value has reached one billion US dollars or more; a mythical horned horse
2. thirteen
3. seven
4. Facebook
5. a unicorn with a valuation of more than \$10 billion
6. Latin

2 Find the word

1. respite
2. lexicographer
3. few and far between
4. granddaddy
5. venture capital
6. fledgling
7. turmoil
8. credit crunch

3 Comprehension check

1. False. A *super-unicorn* is a company worth over ten billion US dollars.
2. True.
3. True.
4. False. *Unicorns* are becoming less of a rarity in San Francisco's Silicon Valley.
5. True.
6. False. There are many animal metaphors in the financial sector.

4 Two-word phrases

1. d
2. f
3. a
4. e
5. b
6. c

5 Animal metaphors

1. c
2. f
3. b
4. e
5. a
6. d

6 Online companies

1. fashion
2. music
3. file hosting
4. photo sharing
5. property
6. lodging