

## A question of opinion

by David Riley and Simon Greenall

**Age:** Adult

**Activity:** Pairwork, whole class – reading, speaking

**Level:** Intermediate

**Aim:** To talk about a set of quotations on business, economics and money

**Time:** 15 minutes

**Grammar and functions:** Expressing opinions

**Vocabulary:** *Banker, inherit, national debt, recession, depression, free enterprise, illegal, mineral rights*

**Materials:** One copy of Worksheet 1 for every 18 students (cut up as indicated); one copy of Worksheet 2 for every three students (cut up as indicated); monolingual dictionaries

- When the discussion finishes, give out copies of the answers (Worksheet 2).

### Follow-up

Ask the students to translate quotations or proverbs about business from their own language.

### Procedure

- Tell the students that they are going to do a speaking activity.
- Write the following on the board and use it to teach the word *quotation*:  

'There's one thing money can't buy and that's poverty.' (John Lennon)
- Distribute the cut-up slips with the half quotations between the students (Worksheet 1). If you have more than eighteen students in your class, you will need to work with separate groups.
- Explain the procedure.
  - Each student reads the card(s) they have and checks the vocabulary.
  - Students then circulate and read their cards aloud to each other, looking for a match.
  - When a pair finds a match, they discuss the quotation to be sure they understand it and then write it on the board, with their names below it.
- As each quotation is written on the board, check it. If it is correct, write the source beneath it. If not, erase it.
- Once all the quotations are on the board, the class reads them and discusses which they agree with and which they find entertaining. If a student does not understand a quotation, the pair who matched it give an explanation.

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A banker is a man who lends you an umbrella  
when it is fair ...

... and takes it away from you when it is raining.

Much of what we call management ...

... consists of making it difficult for people to work.

Work expands so as to ...

... fill the time available for its completion.

It's a recession when your neighbour loses  
his job; ...

... it's a depression when you lose your own.

Advertising may be described as the science ...

... of arresting the human intelligence long  
enough to get money from it.

Nothing is illegal if ...

... one hundred businessmen decide to do it.

When two men in business always agree, ...

... one of them is unnecessary.

Crime is a logical extension of the  
kind of behaviour ...

... that is often considered respectable in  
legitimate business.

Nobody talks more of free enterprise and  
competition and of the best man winning than ...

... the man who inherited his father's  
store or farm.

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- A banker is a man who lends you an umbrella when it is fair and takes it away from you when it is raining. (Anon)
- Crime is a logical extension of the kind of behaviour that is often considered respectable in legitimate business. (Robert Rice)
- Much of what we call management consists of making it difficult for people to work. (Peter Drucker)
- It's a recession when your neighbour loses his job; it's a depression when you lose your own. (Harry S Truman)
- Nobody talks more of free enterprise and competition and of the best man winning than the man who inherited his father's store or farm. (C Wright Mills)
- Nothing is illegal if one hundred businessmen decide to do it. (Andrew Young)
- Advertising may be described as the science of arresting the human intelligence long enough to get money from it. (Stephen Leacock)
- When two men in business always agree, one of them is unnecessary. (William Wrigley Jr)
- Work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion. (C Northcote Parkinson)



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