

Any regrets

by David Riley and Simon Greenall

Age: Adult

Activity: Pairwork, groupwork – reading, speaking

Level: Intermediate

Aim: To act out an interview between a business journalist and a jailed accountant

Time: 10–20 minutes

Grammar and functions: Questions, expressing feelings about the past, the third conditional

Vocabulary: *Accountant, tax evasion, chairman, be unavailable for comment, financial wizard, face charges*

Materials: One copy of the worksheet for each pair of students (cut in two as indicated)

Procedure (option 1)

1. Tell the students that they are going to do a speaking exercise.
2. Divide the class into two groups: accountants and journalists (note that the name Jo, from the worksheet, can be used for both men and women).
3. Set up the situation: the journalists are going to interview the accountants. The interview will be based on a brief article in a local newspaper.
4. Hand out the worksheets, being careful not to mix them up, and allow time for reading and checking vocabulary.
5. Ask students to work together with the others in their group. The journalists decide what questions they want to ask and note them down. The accountants decide what questions they think the journalists will ask and how they should respond.
6. Put the students into pairs, an accountant and a journalist in each pair, to act out the interview.
7. Ask the best pair or pairs to act out their interview(s) to the class.

Follow-up

Ask the students, working in pairs, to write the first hundred words of an editorial to be called 'White collar crime: how society should respond'.

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Journalist

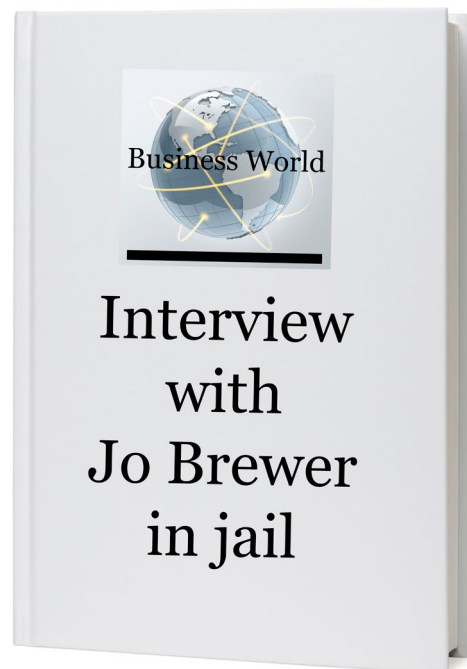
TOP ACCOUNTANT JAILED

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Brewer is alleged to have 'saved' more than \$57m for employers Cottle & Cottle, an international architectural consultancy.

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Accountant

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