

What's in store for your country and your company?

Your country	Prediction – what	Deadline – when	Reason – why
1 The economy (inflation, interest rates, markets, exchange rate, unemployment, house prices...)			
2 Public life (politics, the arts, sport, fashion, music, celebrities...)			

Your company			
1 Results (turnover, profits, market share, public image...)			
2 Working conditions (raises, bonus systems, overtime, working hours, perks, pensions...)			
3 Job security (hiring and firing, redundancies, early retirement...)			
4 Changes in the business environment (technology, competition, fashion...)			
5 New opportunities (new products, product modifications, new markets...)			

The years ahead

Worksheet

4b

ACTIVITY

Pairwork, groupwork and whole class: speaking

AIM

To make predictions about the future and to discuss them.

GRAMMAR AND FUNCTIONS

Making predictions

Giving reasons (*because, as a result, owing to...*)

VOCABULARY

inflation, interest rates, markets, exchange rate, unemployment, house prices, politics, turnover, profits, market share, public image, working conditions, raises, bonus systems, overtime, working hours, perks, pensions, job security, hiring, firing, redundancies, early retirement, business environment, technology, competition, fashion, product modifications

PREPARATION

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student.

TIME

20-30 minutes

PROCEDURE

1 Put the following table on the board:

WHAT	WHEN	WHY
I'm expecting a good bonus	this year;	inflation has been climbing recently.
I think our profits are going to be poor	in the next budget;	my sales figures have been the best I've ever had.
I expect interest rates will go up	this month;	we didn't get the market penetration we hoped for.

- Ask the students to work in pairs and use the table to make three sensible sentences. (*I think our profits are going to be poor this year; we didn't get the market penetration we hoped for. I'm expecting a good bonus this month; my sales figures have been the best I've ever had. I expect interest rates will go up in the next budget; inflation has been climbing recently.*)
- Divide the class into groups of three or four.
- Give out one worksheet to each student.
- Tell the groups to find one prediction they all agree about for each category on the sheet including *what* they think will happen, approximately *when*, and *why* it will happen. There are plenty of sub headings in each category to help them find areas of agreement. If they are not from the same company/industry ask them to try to find something in common.
- Allow about 10 minutes and then ask different groups to deliver their predictions to the rest of the class. Encourage comments and questions.

FOLLOW-UP

Students, individually or in pairs, choose one prediction and write 100-150 words expanding it: giving reasons and discussing implications.