

ACTIVITY

Pairwork: speaking, reading

AIM

To read items of business news and discuss their implications.

GRAMMAR AND FUNCTIONS

Might for future possibility

Speculating about the future: *might/may, will, probably*

VOCABULARY

Business news: *to announce, to hear, a shareholding, a pay rise, an airline, labour costs, the foreign exchange markets, to devalue (a currency), to set up, to close, to lay off, to take over, to go on strike, to pay compensation, to move (relocate)*

General: *a court, a tunnel, worry, unsafe*

PREPARATION

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student in the class.

TIME

30 minutes

PROCEDURE

- 1 Write this headline on the board and ask the students to make it into a full sentence.
CAA LOSES BIG EUROPEAN DEFENCE CONTRACT TO US COMPANY
CAA has lost a big European defence contract to an American company.
- 2 Ask the students what they think might happen next.
 For example:
CAA might lay off some employees.
Perhaps the government will help CAA with other contracts.
- 3 Give one worksheet to each student and ask them to check the meaning of each headline, using a dictionary where necessary. Check the pronunciation of new vocabulary by asking students to read each headline aloud.
- 4 Ask students to work in pairs to discuss the meaning of each headline and to speculate about what is going to happen next.
- 5 Discuss the answers with the whole class.

FOLLOW-UP

Ask the students to bring in similar headlines from English newspapers or from papers in their own language. They can explain these to the rest of the class who will then speculate about what will happen next.
 Alternatively, ask them to choose one of the headlines on the worksheet and write the accompanying story (50-80 words).