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Monopolies, Money, and Water

Warm-up Speaking | Introduction | Vocabulary | Reading | Word-Building Extension | Grammar: Passives



BUSINESS WARM-UP

TALK TO YOUR PARTNER

IF YOU HAD TO INVEST IN ONE POLISH COMPANY, WHICH WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

THINK OF A QUESTION FOR YOUR PARTNER

HOW WILL AI AFFECT THE WORLD OF WORK?

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST PROBLEM FACING THE POLISH ECONOMY? HOW CAN IT BE FIXED?

WHY MIGHT A GOOD BUSINESS FAIL? DO YOU KNOW ANY EXAMPLES?

ARE SOME COMPANIES TOO BIG? AND TOO STRONG? WHAT CAN BE DONE?

SHOULD THERE BE A MINIMUM WAGE? WHAT SHOULD IT BE?

DO YOU HAVE ANY BUSINESS GURU, OR SOMEONE WHO INSPIRES YOU?

WHAT DO YOU DO? DO YOU ENJOY WHAT YOU DO?

WHAT IS THE SECRET OF A GOOD BUSINESS?

IF YOU COULD HAVE DINNER WITH ANY BUSINESS LEADER, DEAD OR ALIVE, WHO WOULD IT BE? WHY?

SHOULD MILLIONAIRES AND BILLIONAIRES PAY HIGHER TAXES?

WOULD YOU PAY MORE / HIGHER TAXES TO "HELP THE ENVIRONMENT"?

WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER PLANS FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS?

NAME 3 CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY

SHOULD POLAND JOIN THE EURO? WHY? WHY NOT?

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT TRADE UNIONS? WOULD YOU JOIN ONE?

IF YOU HAD TO INVEST IN ONE AMERICAN COMPANY, WHICH WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

DO YOU AGREE WITH POSITIVE DISCRIMINATION / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AT WORK OR UNI?

HOW WILL THE POLISH ECONOMY LOOK IN 10 YEARS TIME?

THINK OF A QUESTION FOR YOUR PARTNER



INTRODUCTION: MONOPOLIES

1. What is a monopoly?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of monopolies in the business world?
3. How can a monopoly affect **INNOVATION** and **PRICING** in an industry?
4. Is it fair for a private company to have 100% control over a **PUBLIC UTILITY**, such as water, electricity, toll roads or airports? Why? Why not?
5. Should governments regulate monopolies to protect customers? Why? How?
6. Does your country have any **MONOPOLIES**? How about **NATURAL MONOPOLIES**? How do you feel about these businesses?
7. Should **UTILITIES** such as water, electricity, and telecommunications be in **PUBLIC** or **PRIVATE** ownership?
8. Should **NATURAL MONOPOLIES**, such as water or gas, always be owned by the government? Why or why not? What about tech platforms like Google or Meta?
9. In your opinion, should **ESSENTIAL SERVICES** like healthcare and education be **NATIONALISED** or **PRIVATISED**? Why?
10. Are private companies more efficient than public ones? How do you know?
11. Should monopolies **BE BROKEN UP** to encourage competition and protect consumers?
12. Do you think the privatisation of industries has been successful in Poland? Why? Why not?

SCROLL DOWN FOR VOCABULARY

VOCABULARY

CHECK THE MEANINGS OF THE WORDS BELOW

sewage (noun) ☐ infrastructure (noun) ☐ debt (noun) ☐

shareholder (noun) ☐ persistent (adj) ☐ reckless (adj) ☐ mislead (verb) ☐

interim (adj) ☐ hedge fund (noun) ☐ ambiguous (adj) ☐

Complete the sentences using the words above. Change the form and add other words if needed

1. Since Jeff got fired, Sam has been promoted to _____ manager, but it's only temporary.
2. Due to a technical mistake, **TOXIC** _____ was released near the beach and it had to be closed.
3. The contract was _____ (NEGATIVE FORM) - We had to pay by 21/07. Our lawyer strongly advised us to pay.
4. The company had growing _____ (PLURAL FORM) and the owner knew they were close to bankruptcy.
5. Jim is _____ (ADVERB FORM) late and I think he might get fired.
6. The CEO had behaved _____ (ADVERB FORM) and the shareholders were really angry.
7. The government is investing in upgrading the country's _____, including roads and bridges.
8. The _____ (ADJECTIVE FORM) advertisement exaggerated the product's benefits and was soon banned.
9. The _____ manager made strategic investment decisions to maximise returns for his clients.
10. The _____ (PLURAL FORM) attended the annual meeting to vote on important decisions.

KEY

READY? ENLARGE YOUR SCREEN TO CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

1. INTERIM
2. SEWAGE
3. UNAMBIGUOUS
4. DEBTS
5. PERSISTENTLY
6. RECKLESSLY
7. INFRASTRUCTURE
8. MISLEADING
9. HEDGE FUND
10. SHAREHOLDERS

SCROLL DOWN FOR READING AND GRAMMAR

READING AND GRAMMAR

READ THE TEXT ONCE TO CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

COMPLETE THE TEXT WITH THE CORRECT FORMS OF THE VERBS IN (BRACKETS)



WATER FIRMS PUT RAW SEWAGE INTO UK RIVERS 300,000 TIMES (ADAPTED FROM THE GUARDIAN)

Water companies illegally put raw **SEWAGE** into UK rivers and seas more than 300,000 times last year, according to new data, as Thames Water **(1)** _____ **(FINE)** £3.34m.

The new figures come as water companies are under huge pressure to invest in old **INFRASTRUCTURE** and high interest rates **(2)** _____ **(RISE)** costs on their billions of pounds of **DEBT**.

Thames Water, which **(3)** _____ **(OWN)** by an Australian **HEDGE FUND** will have to raise money more from **SHAREHOLDERS** due to **PERSISTENT** poor performance and high **DEBTS**.

…David Forsdick, from the environmental group WildFish, said, "The data is **UNAMBIGUOUS** - this **(4)** _____ **(GO ON)** for years."

CONTINUED...

…The government's plan is to add new £56bn to customers' water bills in order to pay for new **INFRASTRUCTURE** and water bills could rise by 40% to pay for the investment.

However, lawyers for WildFish say water companies should pay for the improvements - not customers.

Thames Water, which **(5)** _____ **(STRUGGLE)** with £14bn of debt, **(6)** _____ **(FINE)** £3.34m for a "**RECKLESS**" incident in which millions of litres of raw **SEWAGE** **(7)** _____ **(PUMP)** into rivers, **(8)** _____ **(KILL)** 1,700 fish.

The company deliberately **(9)** _____ **(MISLEAD)** the Environment Agency during its investigation.

Cathryn Ross, **INTERIM** co-CEO of Thames Water, said: "We are deeply sorry for the pollution incident."

READY? ENLARGE YOUR SCREEN TO CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

1. WAS FINED
2. RAISING
3. IS OWNED
4. HAS BEEN GOING ON
5. IS STRUGGLING
6. WAS FINED / HAS BEEN FINED
7. WAS PUMPED
8. KILLING
9. MISLED

SCROLL DOWN FOR WORD-BUILDING EXTENSION

WORD-BUILDING EXTENSION

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES USING THE CORRECT FORMS OF THE WORDS IN (BRACKETS)

THE BASIC WORDS ARE TAKEN FROM THE READING TASK ABOVE

1. The old factory was turned into new apartments. A huge iron statue was built in front of the block to _____ **(SYMBOL)** (VERB) its old, industrial past.
2. Would higher taxes increase or decrease _____ **(INFLATE)** (NOUN)?
3. The new owners carried out an _____ **EXHAUST)** (ADJECTIVE) audit designed to find areas they could cut costs and save money.
4. It was really _____ **(FRUSTRATE)** (ADJECTIVE) when our Team Leader told us to stop work on the project. (We knew it could be a great product!)
5. The billionaire was always open to new _____ **(INVEST)** (NOUN) ideas.
6. The business looked interesting but there was huge competition and we knew it was _____ **(VIABLE)** (NEGATIVE ADJECTIVE).
7. My boss has been behaving _____ **(ERRATIC)** (ADVERB) for weeks. We think he's having nervous breakdown.
8. Mr Jones is a(n) _____ **(ORGANISE)** (ADJECTIVE) genius and we can trust him with most projects.
9. Under Margaret Thatcher, the UK experienced the _____ **(DISAPPEAR)** (NOUN) of hundreds of thousands of manufacturing jobs.
10. Since we introduced AI, we've seen a(n) _____ **(TRANSFORM)** (VERB) in our profits.

KEY

READY? ENLARGE YOUR SCREEN TO CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

1. SYMBOLISE
2. INFLATION
3. EXHAUSTIVE
4. FRUSTRATING
5. INVESTMENT
6. UNVIABLE
7. ERRATICALLY
8. ORGANISATIONAL
9. DISAPPEARANCE
10. TRANSFORMATION

SCROLL DOWN FOR GRAMMAR: PASSIVES



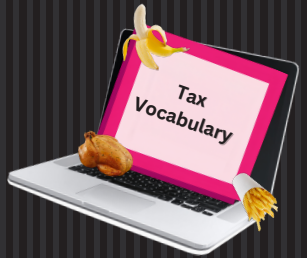


3Lions
English for life

Chcesz naprawdę podnieść swoje umiejętności z angielskiego?
Nasze nowe „English Hub" jest pełne ćwiczeń i objaśnień.
A jego zawartość rośnie z każdym dniem...

MOŻE WARTO SPRÓBOWAĆ?





GRAMMAR: PASSIVES

Put the verbs in **(BRACKETS)** into **PASSIVE FORMS** - Make any necessary changes.

1. Every year, a forest the size of Scotland _____ **(CUT DOWN)** (PRESENT SIMPLE / CONTINUOUS) to make toilet paper for the UK.
2. In my opinion, more cycle lanes should _____ **(BUILD)** (PRESENT SIMPLE) in the city centre.
3. Vast amounts of money _____ **(SPEND)** (PRESENT SIMPLE) on expensive art each year.
4. Energy could _____ **(SAVE)** (PRESENT SIMPLE) if more journeys _____ **(MAKE)** (PRESENT SIMPLE) by bicycle or on foot.
5. Rubbish can _____ **(MIX)** (PRESENT SIMPLE) with grass and _____ **(SELL)** (PRESENT SIMPLE) as compost.
6. Our salaries _____ **(RISE)** (PRESENT PERFECT) twice so far this year, mainly due to inflation.
7. This car _____ **(PROBABLY / MANUFACTURE)** (PAST SIMPLE) in China.
8. He's angry because someone scratched his car while it _____ **(CLEAN)** (PAST CONTINUOUS) at the car wash.
9. A new manual to our product _____ **(WRITE)** (PRESENT CONTINUOUS) at the moment.
10. The actions of Margaret Thatcher _____ **(NEVER / FORGET)** (FUTURE SIMPLE).
11. It's not like her to be late. Her train must _____ **(DELAY)** (PRESENT PERFECT).
12. He noticed at once that his office _____ **(BREAK INTO)** (PAST PERFECT).

KEY

READY? ENLARGE YOUR SCREEN TO CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

1. IS / IS BEING CUT DOWN
2. BE BUILT
3. ARE SPENT
4. BE SAVED, WERE MADE
5. BE MIXED, SOLD
6. HAVE BEEN RAISED
7. WAS PROBABLY MANUFACTURED
8. WAS BEING CLEANED
9. IS BEING WRITTEN
10. WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN
11. HAVE BEEN DELAYED
12. HAD BEEN BROKEN INTO

DEAR STUDENTS

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