

Closing Down

1 Warm Up Work with a partner.

Look at the picture. What is happening?



2 Vocabulary Match the words.

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1) be laid off (v) | something you heard / read |
| 2) apparently (adv) | a company selling directly to the public |
| 3) a recession (n) | when a company has no more money, and closes |
| 4) compete (v) | lose your job |
| 5) a retailer (n) | try to be more successful than another company |
| 6) go bankrupt (v) | when the economy is getting smaller |

3 Conversation Read and fill in the spaces.

Sarah Did you see that AB Sports has ¹.....?

Andy Yeah - it's such a ²..... I heard that over a hundred people have been laid off.

Sarah Apparently, the company had been making a loss for the last three years.

Andy Well, we are in a recession. People are more ³..... with their money.

Sarah Sure. But people also buy more stuff online these days.

Andy Yeah - ⁴..... retailers just can't compete with online companies. I'm not ⁵..... they are going bankrupt.

Sarah I wonder which company will be next...?

- Choose From
- shame
 - surprised
 - high street
 - careful
 - closed

4 Your Turn Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

- 1) What has happened to AB Sports?
.....
- 2) How many people have been laid off?
.....
- 3) How long had the company been making a loss?
.....
- 4) How has the Internet changed the way people go shopping?
.....

5**Your Turn****Rewrite the sentences using vocabulary from exercise 2.**

- 1) Four hundred people lost their jobs last week.
- 2) The economy is getting worse.
- 3) High street shops are finding it difficult to make a profit.
- 4) I heard that yet another café is going to open in the town soon.
- 5) It's not easy to be more successful than multi-national companies.
- 6) Lots of companies have closed recently.

6**Do you remember?****Fill in the blanks.**

Sarah	Did you see that AB Sports has closed?
Andy	Yeah - it's such a shame. I heard that over a hundred people have been l..... off.
Sarah	Apparently, the company made a l..... for many years.
Andy	Well, we are in a r..... . People are more careful with their money.
Sarah	Sure. But people also buy more stuff o..... these days.
Andy	Yeah - high street retailers just can't c..... with online companies. I'm not surprised they are going b..... .
Sarah	I wonder which company will be next...?

7**Discussion****Ask and answer these questions. Ask follow-up questions too.**

1. Which famous companies have gone bankrupt in the last few years? What were the reasons?
2. Do companies often lay off workers? Do most people have a job for life?
3. Is your country in recession? Why? When do you think it will come out of recession?
4. Is your employer making a profit or making a loss? Are you optimistic about the future?
5. Are you more careful with money than before? Can you give any examples?
6. Do you buy things online? Which things do you buy online? Which things do you never buy online?

Closing Down: Teaching Notes

Target Structure:	Work / Economy Related Expressions
Vocabulary:	General / Business
Level:	Intermediate +
Time:	45 minutes
Preparation:	None

Suggested Teaching Method

- 1 The first exercise introduces the topic. Elicit some answers from your students. Make sure students understand that the store is closing forever.
- 2 Students can work alone and check in pairs. Go through the answers with the group.
- 3 Students can work alone and check in pairs. Have students practise the conversation several times with a partner.
- 4 Students can work in pairs asking and answering the questions. Go through the answers with the group.
- 5 Again, students can work in pairs. Go through the answers with the group. Accept any answers that are grammatically correct and make sense using the target language.
- 6 Students can work alone and then check their answers against the original conversation.
- 7 Have students read through the discussion questions. Check understanding of *come out of recession* and *optimistic*.

Students can work in pairs or small groups. Encourage eye-contact and follow-up questions. Monitor, but try not to interrupt. When the conversations come to a close, write on the board some errors you heard, and encourage correction.

Answer key (Other answers may be possible.)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) be laid off (v) 2) apparently (adv) 3) a recession (n) 4) compete (v) 5) a retailer (n) 6) go bankrupt (v) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> lose your job something you heard / read when the economy is getting smaller try to be more successful than another company a company selling directly to the public when a company has no more money, and closes | <p>3</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) closed 2) shame 3) careful 4) high street 5) surprised |
| <p>4</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) It has gone bankrupt. 2) Over a hundred people have been laid off. 3) It had been making a loss for the last three years. 4) People buy more things online. | | |
| <p>5</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Four hundred people were laid off last week. 2) The economy is in recession. 3) High street retailers are finding it difficult to make a profit. 4) Apparently, another café is going to open in the town soon. 5) It's not easy competing with multi-national companies. 6) Lots of companies have gone bankrupt recently. | | |

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