

## **Business English- Positive and negative business vocabulary storytelling game**

### **Instructions for teachers**

*Photocopy and cut up the cards that you want to use with your students and ask them to spread them face up across the table. Students take turns spending exactly two minutes telling an anecdote using the words on as many cards as they can. After they finish, their partner can tell them if they used any of the words the wrong way, then they can keep the rest of the cards. The person with the most cards at the end is the winner.*

*After they finish, you can do the word formation task below and/ or give them a copy of the worksheet with no bold and ask them to circle the positive words.*

### **Positive and negative business vocabulary word formation**

*Make at least one more kind of word from each word below (e.g. a noun from the adjective that is there), then check with the cards.*

achieve

success

fail

challenge

corporation

fund

profit

complain

solution

delay

manage

worse

improve

enhancement

diversification

special

expansion

fluctuation

recover

risky

bankrupt

innovator

invent

lead

patented

partner

scandalous

dismissal

earn

promotion

*Circle the positive words above, then check that with the cards.*

**Business English storytelling vocabulary cards – No bold version**

|                                      |   |  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| achieve(ment)/ succeed (in)/ success | fail (to)/ failure                            | beat/ win (an award)                           |
| boom                                 | collapse/ crash                               | cut costs                                      |
| benefit (from)                       | build(ing)                                    | challenge/ challenging                         |
| (corporate/ in) debt                 | fund(ing)                                     | profit(able/ability)                           |
| complain(t/ts)                       | (unique) selling point(s)                     | solve/ (find a) solution                       |
| delay(ed)                            | manage(ment)                                  | reach  |
| deteriorate/ worsen                  | improve(ment)/ enhance(ment)                  | gain (market share)                            |
| diversify/ diversification           | special(ise/isation)                          | too (much/ many)/ over-...                     |
| expand/ expansion                    | experience turbulence/ be unstable/ fluctuate | recover (from)/ recovery/ bounce back/ rebound |
| export (to)                          | launch (a new product)                        | risk/ risky                                    |
| bankrupt/ bankruptcy                 | invest (in)/ investment                       | save/ savings                                  |
| not... enough/ under-...             | innovate/ innovation/ innovator               | upgrade  |
| invent(or/ion)                       | out of date/ outdated                         | run out  |
| lead(ing)/ (market) leader           | (make a) mistake                              | top (seller/ performance/ quality/ ...)        |
| patent/ patented                     | partner/ partnership                          | scandal/ scandalous                            |
| lose (money)/ (net) loss             | plan/ planning                                | set up/ found                                  |
| dismiss/ dismissal                   | earn/ earnings                                | promote/ promotion                             |
| ignore                               | reach   | suffer from                                    |

**Business storytelling vocabulary cards – Positive words in bold version**

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>achieve(ment)/ succeed (in)/ success</b> | fail (to)/ failure                            | <b>beat/ win (an award)</b>                           |
| <b>boom</b>                                 | collapse/ crash                               | <b>cut costs</b>                                      |
| <b>benefit (from)</b>                       | <b>build(ing)</b>                             | challenge/ challenging                                |
| (corporate/ in) debt                        | <b>fund(ing)</b>                              | <b>profit(able/ability)</b>                           |
| complain(t/ts)                              | <b>(unique) selling point(s)</b>              | <b>solve/ (find a) solution</b>                       |
| delay(ed)                                   | <b>manage(ment)</b>                           | <b>reach</b>  |
| deteriorate/ worsen                         | <b>improve(ment)/ enhance(ment)</b>           | <b>gain (market share)</b>                            |
| <b>diversify/ diversification</b>           | <b>special(ise/isation)</b>                   | too (much/ many)/ over-...                            |
| <b>expand/ expansion</b>                    | experience turbulence/ be unstable/ fluctuate | <b>recover (from)/ recovery/ bounce back/ rebound</b> |
| <b>export (to)</b>                          | <b>launch (a new product)</b>                 | risk/ risky   |
| bankrupt/ bankruptcy                        | <b>invest (in)/ investment</b>                | <b>save/ savings</b>                                  |
| not... enough/ under-...                    | <b>innovate/ innovation/ innovator</b>        | <b>upgrade</b>  |
| <b>invent(or/ion)</b>                       | out of date/ outdated                         | run out   |
| <b>lead(ing)/ (market) leader</b>           | (make a) mistake                              | <b>top (seller/ performance/ quality/...)</b>         |
| <b>patent/ patented</b>                     | <b>partner/ partnership</b>                   | scandal/ scandalous                                   |
| lose (money)/ (net) loss                    | <b>plan/ planning</b>                         | <b>set up/ found</b>                                  |
| dismiss/ dismissal                          | <b>earn/ earnings</b>                         | <b>promote/ promotion</b>                             |
| ignore                                      | <b>reach</b>                                  | <b>suffer from</b>                                    |

**Storytelling phrases cards**

|                   |                  |                  |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| accident(al/ally) | after            | ... ago          | almost           |
| as soon as        | at first         | at that moment   | at the end       |
| by                | cause            | during           | final(ly)        |
| fortunate(ly)     | happen           | in the end       | in the meantime  |
| initial(ly)       | later (that day) | luckily          | meanwhile        |
| nearly            | next             | occur            | one day          |
| reason            | since then       | soon             | sudden(ly)       |
| the following     | the next         | then             | unfortunately    |
| when              | while            | was/ were ...ing | had (already)... |