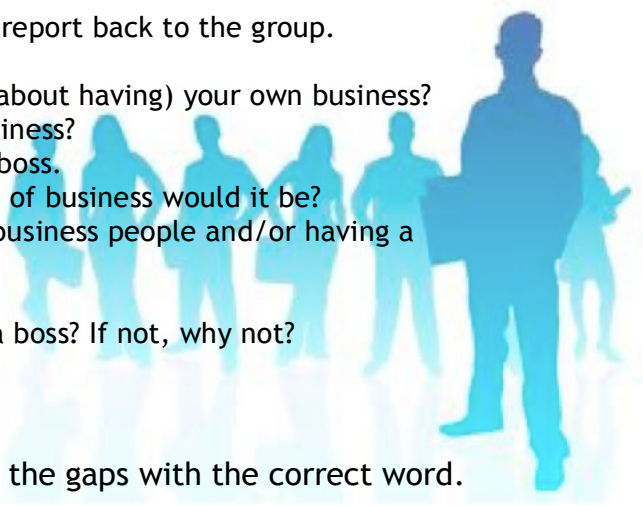
Let's get down to business!



Activity 1 - Make it your business

Discuss the following questions with your partner and report back to the group.

1. Do you have or have you ever had (or thought about having) your own business?
2. What are the difficult areas in setting up a business?
3. Think of some pros and cons or being our own boss.
4. If you had your own business, what would type of business would it be?
5. What words/adjectives do you associate with business people and/or having a business of your own?
6. How do you think you would be as a boss?
7. Would or could you have someone like you as a boss? If not, why not?
8. How would you choose your employees?

Activity 2 – Let's get down to business

GRAMMAR POINT: Business Phrasal Verbs -> Fill in the gaps with the correct word.

1. We have to invest in research and development if we wish to keep _____ of our competitors.

ahead back down from in

2. There was a big argument in the meeting but I just kept _____ it.

without into out through out of

3. I don't plan to allocate all of the budget at the moment. I intend to keep some _____ for emergencies.

ahead back down from through

4. You've signed an agreement with us and we intend to keep you _____ the terms of the agreement.

away on at out to through

5. Their claims are _____ up by some very impressive statistics.

backed balked bargained based became

6. I'm really determined on this. Nothing you can say will make me _____ down

back balk bargain base beef

7. If you make a loss, you can _____ it forward to next year.

call cancel carry catch

8. If they resist our offer for their company, we should withdraw it. There is no point in getting _____ up in a hostile takeover battle.

called carved carried caught

9. I don't see why I should get the blame. I was just _____ out Bob's orders.

calling cancelling carrying catching

10. Well we seem to have agreed on the main points. Let's leave it to our lawyers to _____ up the detailed contract.

dream draw dress drone

11. They're not trustworthy. I don't think we should _____ into any agreement with them.

ease eat even enter

12. Before we _____ upon a new project, I think we ought to finalize the present one.

ease eat embark explain

13. Why don't you start by _____ me in on the background to the problem?
figuring filing filling fiddling fighting

14. You may think you are earning more but, when inflation is _____ in, you are actually earning less than before.
factored filed filled fiddled fought

15. I'll tell you but you must keep this strictly _____ yourself.
on at out to in

16. Well it's good to get the facts at last. Thank you for setting me _____ about that.
against straight a target a precedent back

Activity 3 – Business dialogues
With your partner, write a dialogue using as many of the above idioms as possible.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Activity 4 – Song: Flight of the Concords - It's business time
Listen to the song and try and answer the following questions:

1) What happens on Wednesdays?
2) What happens on Tuesdays?
3) What makes the conditions perfect?
4) What is their foreplay?
5) What is still very important?
6) Why is he talking about a team building exercise?
7) How does he get undressed?
8) What does she say after the two minutes are up?



Activity 5 - Unusual Business Ideas
Now let's take a look at some slight peculiar business ideas and discuss them. Which ones (if any) do you think will work? How would you advertise them?

Activity 6 – Set up a business
In groups come up with a business plan and consider the following areas:

1) A snazzy name – Come up with a name for your business in English.
2) Field of work – What field of business would you work in?
3) Target market – Who would use your products or services?
4) Location – Where would you put it? In a busy street, on the beach, in the country
5) Publicity/ marketing - Who would you make it known?

Activity 7 – Role play: At the bank
Now, business plan in hand, you go and see your bank manager to try and convince him to give you a hefty loan in order to start up your business. He needs persuading and finds flaws in your plan so you have to really sell your idea. Use as much new vocabulary as possible and don't back down!