

**Student A**

**THE LOWEST  
UNEMPLOYMENT**

In \_\_\_\_\_ unemployment in  
Switzerland \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ of 6.6m.

**THE MOST EXPENSIVE  
OFFICES**

In 1988 land around the Mejiya Building in Central  
Tokyo \_\_\_\_\_  
( \_\_\_\_\_ \$248,000  
per m<sup>2</sup>).

**THE LARGEST  
COMPANY**

General Motors \_\_\_\_\_  
has 692,800 employees around the world. Its  
turnover in 1992 \_\_\_\_\_  
\$4.9bn profit.

**THE LONGEST  
STRIKE**

On 4 January 1961, barber's assistants in  
Copenhagen \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ on strike.



**Student B**

**THE LOWEST  
UNEMPLOYMENT**

In December 1973 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ was 81 out of a population of 6.6m.

**THE MOST EXPENSIVE  
OFFICES**

In 1988 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ had a value of ¥33.3m per m<sup>2</sup> (equal to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_).

**THE LARGEST  
COMPANY**

General Motors Corporation in the USA  
\_\_\_\_\_ was \$154.9bn, with \$4.9bn profit.

**THE LONGEST  
STRIKE**

On 4 January \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ went back  
to work after 33 years on strike.

World records Worksheet 30

**ACTIVITY**

Pairwork: reading, speaking

**AIM**

To exchange information about records from the world of business.

**GRAMMAR AND FUNCTIONS**

Superlatives

Numbers

**VOCABULARY**

unemployment, offices, expensive, employees, strike, turnover, profit, m<sup>2</sup> (square metre), m (million) bn (billion), per, working life, retire

**PREPARATION**

Make one copy of the worksheet for each pair of students and cut it in two as indicated. Try to make sure there are bilingual dictionaries available.

**TIME**

10 to 20 minutes

**PROCEDURE**

- 1 Write the following name on the board:  
*Mr Shigechiyo Izumi.*
- 2 Tell the students you are going to give them some true information about the person whose name is on the board.
- 3 Tell them that as they listen they should write down all the numbers and nothing else.
- 4 Read out the following text twice.  
*Mr Shigechiyo Izumi of Japan had a working life of 98 years. He started work in 1872 and retired in 1970 when he was 105 years old. He was over 120 when he died.*
- 5 Put the students into pairs.
- 6 Ask the pairs to compare the numbers they have written.
- 7 Write the numbers on the board for the students to check.
- 8 Ask the pairs to reconstruct the text from the numbers. They do not have to produce the exact text - but it must have the same meaning. Allow 5 minutes.
- 9 Ask different pairs to read the completed texts aloud and clear up any misunderstandings.
- 10 Ask the students to suggest a title for the text.
- 11 Write their suggestions on the board.
- 12 Tell them that this is the longest working life on record.
- 13 Divide the groups into pairs of Student A and Student B and give out the relevant worksheet.
- 14 Tell the students they have four incomplete texts about business records. Establish that in each pair the two students have different information from each other.
- 15 Explain the task. The students should complete the texts by dictating the missing information to each other.
- 16 Once they understand, start the activity.
- 17 When most pairs have finished, reconvene the class and check the exercise by asking comprehension questions. For example:  
*What was Switzerland's population in 1973?*  
*Where was the most expensive building?*  
*How much profit did General Motors make in 1992?*  
*Who went on strike in 1961?*
- 18 Let them look at each other's texts as a final check.