



DAUGHTER OF CRYPTOCURRENCY BOSS ESCAPES KIDNAPPING



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:

1GF3-Q1L3-E4B



1

Warm up

In pairs or small groups, complete the quiz below. No phones allowed!

cryptocurrency – any system of electronic money, used for buying and selling online and without the need for a central bank

- When was Bitcoin first invented?
 - 2006
 - 2008
 - 2012
 - 2014
- Which of these is the name of a cryptocurrency?
 - Catcoin (CAT)
 - Dogecoin (DOGE)
 - Memecoin (MEME)
 - all of these
- What was the first country to allow Bitcoin as a legal way of paying for things?
 - El Salvador
 - Honduras
 - Brazil
 - Mexico
- Who invented Bitcoin?
 - Elon Musk
 - Bill Gates
 - Peter Thiel
 - an unknown person



5. What is the technology that cryptocurrencies use called?
- a. blockchain b. bitchain c. moneychain d. netchain
6. What is the second-largest cryptocurrency?
- a. Litecoin b. Ethereum c. Monero d. Solana

2 Pre-listening task: general vocabulary

Part A: Match words with the correct definitions.

Group 1:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>incident</u> (n) | a. the state of being liked, enjoyed or supported by a large number of people |
| 2. <u>approach</u> (v) | b. a physical fight between two people or groups of people, especially when one of them is trying to escape, or to get something from the other |
| 3. <u>rescue</u> (n) | c. a person who has done something wrong or against the law |
| 4. <u>struggle</u> (n) | d. come near to somebody/something in distance or time |
| 5. <u>popularity</u> (n) | e. the act of saving somebody/something from a dangerous or difficult situation |
| 6. <u>schedule</u> (v) | f. arrange for something to happen at a particular time |
| 7. <u>attempted</u> (adj.) | g. something that happens, especially something unusual or unpleasant |
| 8. <u>culprit</u> (n) | h. (of a crime, etc.) that somebody has tried to do something, but without success |

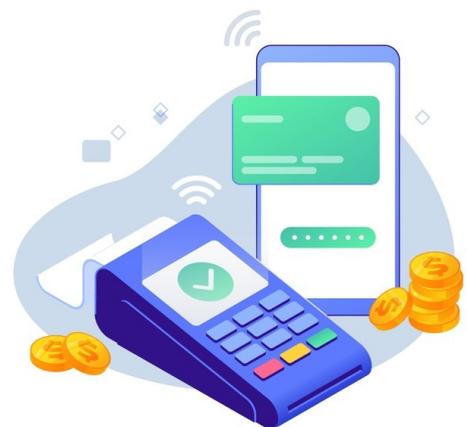


**Group 2:**

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. <u>on</u> looker (n) | a. the crime of taking somebody away illegally and keeping them as a prisoner, especially in order to get money or something else for returning them |
| 2. <u>trans</u> action (n) | b. wearing an item of clothing over your face or head |
| 3. <u>sur</u> ge (n) | c. describing something/someone that is moving away from a place or enemy |
| 4. <u>plat</u> form (n) | d. a person who watches something that is happening, but is not involved in it |
| 5. <u>retreat</u> ing (adj.) | e. the type of computer system or the software that is used |
| 6. <u>flee</u> (v) | f. a piece of business that is done between people, especially an act of buying or selling |
| 7. <u>mask</u> ed (adj.) | g. leave a person or place very quickly, especially because you are afraid of possible danger |
| 8. <u>kidn</u> apping (n) | h. a sudden increase in the amount or number of something |

Part B: Discuss these questions in pairs.

1. Why do you think there might have been a surge of interest in cryptocurrencies recently?
2. Do you ever use your mobile phone for transactions? Why/why not?
3. Why do you think kidnapping rates are higher in some countries than in others?





3

Listening for specific information

Listen to the report. Tick the items you hear mentioned.

fire extinguisher – a metal container with water or chemicals inside for putting out small fires



- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> family | 2. <input type="checkbox"/> police |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> child | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> vehicle |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> mother | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> father |
| 7. <input type="checkbox"/> figure | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> gun |
| 9. <input type="checkbox"/> value | 10. <input type="checkbox"/> attacks |





4

Listening for comprehension

Part A: For each question, select the answer that most accurately reflects the information given in the audio. Listen to the report again to check your answers.

1. Where did the attempted kidnapping take place?
 - a. London
 - b. Marseille
 - c. Paris
2. How many men were wearing masks?
 - a. 2
 - b. 3
 - c. 4
3. What type of vehicle did the masked men use?
 - a. a white van
 - b. a black car
 - c. motorbikes
4. What was thrown at the vehicle as the masked men fled?
 - a. a mobile phone
 - b. a brick
 - c. a fire extinguisher
5. What is Paymium?
 - a. a company linked to organised crime
 - b. a French bank
 - c. a company that allows people to buy and sell cryptocurrencies
6. What happened to David Balland?
 - a. He was kidnapped and had a finger cut off.
 - b. He was killed when a kidnapping went wrong.
 - c. He was arrested by police, who believed he was responsible for a kidnapping attempt.
7. What is Bitcoin valued at now, according to the report?
 - a. \$90,000
 - b. \$101,000
 - c. \$103,000
8. How did French politicians respond to the attacks?
 - a. They passed a new law to make cryptocurrency illegal in France.
 - b. They changed the law to make cryptocurrency legal in France.
 - c. They arranged a meeting.





Part B: Look at the sentences in the box and guess what the bold phrase in each sentence means, then answer the questions below in pairs.

- After a **string of** food poisoning incidents, supermarkets have stopped selling products containing soft cheese.
- When I heard my boss shouting at a colleague, I decided to **step in**, even though I knew that I might get fired.

1. Can you think of a string of films that were released around the same time on the same subject?
2. If you saw a fight taking place, would you step in?

5**Pre-reading task: general vocabulary**

You are going to read an article about cryptocurrencies. Read the text quickly and find words that match the synonyms and definitions below in each section.

1. _____ (v, para. B): obtain something by buying or being given it
2. _____ (n, para. B): the fact of owning something
3. _____ (n, para. C): a situation when there is not enough of the people or things that are needed
4. _____ (n, para. D): a gas breathed out by people and animals from the lungs or produced by burning carbon
5. _____ (n, para. D): a measure of the amount of carbon dioxide that is produced by the activities of a person or company
6. _____ (n, para. E): criminal groups
7. _____ (n, para. E): people who engage in violent action in order to achieve political aims or force a government to act
8. _____ (v, para. E): returned to a normal state after an unpleasant or unusual experience or a period of difficulty



The crypto problem

Since Donald Trump was re-elected in the US, cryptocurrency has seen a boom. We examine the technology behind virtual currencies, and the risks and problems involved.

A. What is cryptocurrency?

Unlike dollars, euros or pounds, cryptocurrencies are entirely digital. They are a decentralised form of money that offers a way to buy and pay for things without banks or governments becoming involved. The first example of the technology – Bitcoin – was invented in 2008. Later examples include Ethereum and so-called "Memecoins", like Dogecoin, which has been supported by Elon Musk.

B. How does it work?

A cryptocurrency unit, such as a Bitcoin, is created through a combination of encryption and peer-to-peer networking. If you were to acquire a Bitcoin, it would be represented by a secret digital key that can be used to prove ownership. This key is similar to a password, allowing you to access your money and transfer it to another user through various online platforms.

C. How are cryptocurrencies created?

Most cryptocurrencies come into existence through a method known as "mining", in which computers compete to solve complex problems. The computer that finds the solution first is rewarded with a unit of virtual currency. The mining process consumes an incredible amount of computer processing power, which has led to shortages of important computer parts in recent years.

D. Is this bad for the environment?

Mining Bitcoin, Ethereum and other cryptocurrencies requires a lot of electricity. A 2022 report estimated that Bitcoin mining is responsible for releasing around 65.4 megatonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year. This is a higher rate of emissions than many European countries. Suggestions for changes to the mining process in order to reduce environmental damage have been rejected by cryptocurrency supporters, although some virtual currencies do have a much smaller carbon footprint than others.

E. Are there any other drawbacks?

Virtual currencies are often used by criminals to move funds around without attracting attention. In particular, cryptocurrency is believed to be widely used by gangs, terrorists and countries subject to international sanctions. Cryptocurrencies are also seen as incredibly unstable, leading to many would-be investors losing huge amounts of money. In 2022, the cryptocurrency market crashed completely, and, although it later recovered, many lost their life savings. Financial experts believe that another crypto crash is likely, despite the recent increase in public interest.

Sources: BBC, The Guardian, Reuters





encryption – the act of putting information into a special code, especially in order to prevent people from looking at it without authority

peer-to-peer – (of a computer system) in which each computer can act as a server for the others, allowing data to be shared without the need for a central server

mining – the process of creating new units of a cryptocurrency by solving mathematical problems

6

Reading comprehension

Part A: Read the article again. Using information from the article itself, decide if the statements are True or False.

- 1. Cryptocurrencies are both digital and physical forms of payment. _____
- 2. Once acquired by an individual, cryptocurrencies cannot be transferred to anybody else. _____
- 3. When a computer is the first to solve a complex problem during the mining process, it is rewarded with a cryptocurrency unit. _____
- 4. Mining cryptocurrencies requires a huge amount of electricity. _____
- 5. All cryptocurrencies have a similar carbon footprint. _____
- 6. Cryptocurrencies are often seen as a safe investment. _____
- 7. Financial experts think there will probably be another cryptocurrency crash. _____

Part B: Why do you think that some cryptocurrencies are named after popular memes? Discuss in pairs.





7

Post-reading: economics vocabulary

Using the text above for reference, complete the definitions of the economics vocabulary below by filling in the gaps with the correct words from the list.

activities
organisation

change
trade

increase
value

1. **sanction** (n): official order that limits _____, contact etc. with a particular country, in order to make it do something, such as obeying international law
2. **investor** (n): a person or an _____ that invests money in something
3. **crashed** (v): (of prices, a business, shares etc.) lost _____ or failed suddenly and quickly
4. **decentralised** (adj.): used to describe organisations or their _____ which are not controlled from one central place, but happen in many different places
5. **boom** (n): a sudden _____ in trade and economic activity
6. **unstable** (adj.): likely to _____ suddenly

8

Talking Point

In pairs or small groups, discuss the following questions.

1. Have you ever bought or invested in cryptocurrency? If not, do you think you will do so in the future?
2. In general, do you think cryptocurrency is a good or a bad idea?
3. How can we prevent virtual currencies from causing damage to the environment?
4. Do you think that physical money will stop existing in the future? Would this be a good or a bad thing?
5. Why do you think cryptocurrencies are popular with criminals? Can anything be done about this?
6. Should millionaires and billionaires be responsible for their own private security, or should the police keep them safe?
7. How do you feel about people who lose lots of money when investing in cryptocurrency?



9

Extended activity: essay and group task

Option 1: Write an opinion essay on ONE of the topics below. Your essay should agree or disagree with the statement, and should be between 240-280 words.

Topics:

1. Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies that damage the environment should be banned completely.
2. Cryptocurrencies should be legal to use in transactions in every country.

Option 2: Split into groups. You have been tasked with creating your own cryptocurrency! Think of a name for it and use the questions below to prepare a quick presentation. Tell the class about your new currency.

- Will your currency be based around a meme, like many cryptocurrencies, or will it have a more serious name?
- What image will represent your currency?
- Think of a three or four-letter code for your currency (such as DOGE, BTC etc.)
- How will your currency solve common issues, such as environmental cost and usage by criminals?
- How will you market your cryptocurrency and attract investors?



Transcripts

4. Listening for comprehension

Newsreader: The daughter of a cryptocurrency CEO and her family have escaped an attempted kidnapping in Paris.

Newsreader: The incident, which is the latest in a string of attacks on people linked to digital currencies, involved four masked men who approached the family in a white van.

Newsreader: The men attempted to pull the woman and child away from the woman's husband, but the family put up a struggle before onlookers stepped in to help.

Newsreader: The men fled in the van, with a member of the public throwing a fire extinguisher at the retreating vehicle.

Newsreader: The woman is believed to be the daughter of Pierre Noizat, CEO of Paymium – a platform used in the buying and selling of cryptocurrencies.

Newsreader: The attempted kidnapping follows the rescue of the father of a cryptocurrency millionaire, who was being held in Paris. The victim had one of his fingers cut off by the kidnappers.

Newsreader: Another French cryptocurrency figure – David Balland – was kidnapped in January, again having a finger removed by the culprits.

Newsreader: Digital currencies have seen a surge in interest in recent months, with Bitcoin – the first cryptocurrency – rising to over \$103,000. Bitcoin has been increasing in value since Donald Trump's election victory in November 2024.

Newsreader: Despite the increase in popularity, cryptocurrencies remain illegal in some countries, although Bitcoin can be legally used in transactions in France.

Newsreader: French politicians have scheduled a meeting in response to the attacks.



Key

1. Warm up

5 mins.

Tell the students they will be listening to a report about the attempted kidnapping of a cryptocurrency CEO's daughter, and reading an article examining some of the issues relating to cryptocurrency. The quiz activity is suitable for pairs or small groups.

1. b. 2. d. 3. a. 4. d. 5. a. 6. b.

2. Pre-listening task: general vocabulary

5 mins.

Ask students to match the words with the correct definitions.

Part A

Group 1:

1. → g. 2. → d. 3. → e. 4. → b. 5. → a. 6. → f. 7. → h. 8. → c.

Group 2:

1. → d. 2. → f. 3. → h. 4. → e. 5. → c. 6. → g. 7. → b. 8. → a.

5 mins.

Students should discuss the questions in pairs.

3. Listening for specific information

5 mins.

Individually or in pairs, ask students to listen to the report and tick the items they hear mentioned.

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. family | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 3. child | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 4. vehicle | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 6. father | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 7. figure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. value | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 10. attacks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | |

4. Listening for comprehension

5 mins.

Individually or in pairs, ask students to select the answer that best fits each question, before listening again to check.

Part A

1. c. 2. c. 3. a. 4. c. 5. c. 6. a. 7. c. 8. c.

5 mins.

Students should discuss the meaning of the phrases in pairs.

a string of (something) – a series of things or people that come closely one after another

step in – help somebody in a difficult situation or argument



5. Pre-reading task: general vocabulary

5 mins.

Ask students to skim through the text quickly and match the synonyms and definitions to the key vocabulary in each paragraph

- | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. acquire | 2. ownership | 3. shortages | 4. carbon dioxide |
| 5. carbon footprint | 6. gangs | 7. terrorists | 8. recovered |

Sources:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c20qee5030do>

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2023/apr/26/bitcoin-mining-climate-crisis-environmental-impact>

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/jan/13/trump-cryptocurrency-mainstream-safer-investors>

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/fear-anger-frances-crypto-community-after-spate-kidnappings-2025-05-16/>

6. Reading comprehension

10 mins.

Students should read the text again, and use the article to decide whether each statement is True or False. For the second part, they should discuss the question.

Part A

1. False. ["...cryptocurrencies are entirely digital."]
2. False. ["...allowing you to access your money and transfer it to another user through various online platforms."]
3. True. ["The computer that finds the solution first is rewarded with a unit of virtual currency."]
4. True. ["Mining Bitcoin, Ethereum and other cryptocurrencies requires a lot of electricity."]
5. False. ["...some virtual currencies do have a much smaller carbon footprint than others."]
6. False. ["Cryptocurrencies are also seen as incredibly unstable, leading to many would-be investors losing huge amounts of money."]
7. True. ["Financial experts believe that another crypto crash is likely..."]

7. Post-reading: economics vocabulary

5 mins.

Ask students to complete the definitions of the target vocabulary items with the correct words from the list.

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1. trade | 2. organisation | 3. value |
| 4. activities | 5. increase | 6. change |

8. Talking Point

10 mins.

Ask students to discuss the questions in pairs or small groups.

9. Extended activity: essay and group task

40 mins.+

Students should write an opinion essay based on one of the given topics. Encourage them to choose a side and argue in favour of that position.

15 mins.+



Students should work in groups to design their own cryptocurrency. Encourage them to think about the problems as mentioned in the article, and to choose a name for their currency. For younger students, you may wish to emphasise the creative aspect of this task by getting groups to design a logo for their new currency. Groups should present their cryptocurrencies to the class.