

# Wall Street Stock Exchange

SPEAKING

LEVEL  
Advanced

NUMBER  
C1\_2044S\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English



lingoda






## Goals

- Can read, listen to and understand an in depth text about the Wall Street Stock Exchange with technical vocabulary.
- Can discuss complex topics such as Wall Street finance, history and inequality with ease.





The Wall Street Stock Exchange is widely considered the **pulse** of the world's financial activity. Life on the **trading floor** is fast-paced and stressful, you can't be **risk-averse** if you work here. However, if you thrive on pressure and stress then this could well be the place for you!



## The Wall Street Stock Exchange

**Are you interested  
in finance and  
economy? What do  
you already know  
about the Wall  
Street Stock  
Exchange?  
Tell your teacher!**



high pressure  
negotiations...



weekly statistics and  
figures



## Money, money, money

Do you enjoy playing with money? Do you ever gamble? Have you played the national lottery in your country? What would you do if you won the lottery?





## Are you a risk taker?

**Are you a risk taker? Look at the activities on the cards below, how do you feel about them? Would you do them? Why (not)?**

sky diving

making a bet of  
€50 with a friend

visiting a country  
where you do not  
speak the  
language

leaving your  
front door closed  
but unlocked



## Wall Street Stock Exchange



Stocks and shares, **high stakes** and risk, frantic traders, all at a **prime location** on Wall Street, Manhattan Island, New York City. Behind the **buzz**, what do you know about the **ins and outs** of this global institution, the Wall Street Stock Exchange?

For starters, it might come as a shock to discover that Wall Street wasn't the world's first stock exchange. Amsterdam actually had a stock exchange roughly a century prior to New York City. However, nowadays, when we think of the financial world, it's Wall Street that first comes to mind.



## Wall Street Stock Exchange



If you've been to New York City before you may already have taken a wander around the financial district. Located close to the East River this buzzing quarter is **awash** with **soaring**, modern skyscrapers and bustling bars and restaurants where busy traders can grab a bite to eat after a long day on the trading floor. The iconic neoclassical stone building that we associate with the world's biggest stock exchange has an imposing façade made of white marble and an entrance lined with six tall columns.





## Wall Street Stock Exchange

However, this grand building is in **stark** contrast to the humble beginnings of the stock exchange. When early stock traders first met in the city in the 17<sup>th</sup> century their regular meeting place wasn't a building but simply a shady corner under a tree, just outside the spot that is now 68 Wall Street.



## Vocabulary review

Look at the words and phrases below from the text. Check their meaning with your teacher. Can you use each in a sentence?





## Word families

The adjective *soaring* appears in the text above to describe tall buildings. It comes from the verb *to soar*. Complete the table with as many additional families as you can. Remember to talk about how you might use each adjective when describing something!

adjective	verb (infinitive)
soaring	to soar
imposing	_____
_____	to crash
pulsing	_____
_____	_____





## Describing places

Tell your teacher what you can remember so far about the Wall Street Stock Exchange. Now look at the photos below. What information can you tell your teacher about each place? Try to use some of the adjectives from the table on the previous slide.



famous sights



tourist attractions



## Then and now

**Think about the text you have read, especially the description of the Wall Street Stock Exchange in the past compared with how it is now.**



1

How does the text describe the Wall Street Stock Exchange and surrounding area? How has it changed from the Wall Street Stock Exchange of the past?



## Then and now

**Think about the text you have read, especially the description of the Wall Street Stock Exchange in the past compared with how it is now.**



1

How does the text describe the Wall Street Stock Exchange and surrounding area? How has it changed from the Wall Street Stock Exchange of the past?



2

Think about your home country. Can you describe a famous landmark or area of the country as it is now? How has it changed in the last ten or fifty years?



## Get ready to listen



The next few slides will focus on training your listening comprehension



## Fill in the gaps

As you listen to the text, fill in the gaps with the missing words.

The Occupy Wall Street protest movement \_\_\_\_\_ at Wall Street but became a \_\_\_\_\_ movement of people protesting inequality and the \_\_\_\_\_ of big \_\_\_\_\_ and finance on \_\_\_\_\_. The initial sit-in protest lasted for two months during the autumn of 2011 and many \_\_\_\_\_ celebrities turned out to show their support. Although in the end the protest was \_\_\_\_\_ by the police the movement still continues today, \_\_\_\_\_ under a common goal to fight \_\_\_\_\_ inequality.

high-profile

democracy

broken up

global

united

income

originated

business

influence





## What's in a name?

Answer these questions. Be as detailed as possible!



1

Think back to what you just heard. Can you remember how Wall Street got its name?

2

Are there any street names in your town with an interesting history?

3

What about you – is there a story behind how your first name was chosen?



## Voices from the streets

Read the quote below from an interview with a protestor at the Occupy Wall Street demonstration. What do you think? Imagine you are a journalist at the scene. What questions would you like to ask the protestors and the bankers working in Wall Street? Interview your teacher.

// Take from the rich and give to the poor, it has been the mantra for decades and yet things still seem to stay the same. The rich get richer and the poor still suffer. But I'm hopeful, that's why I'm here, if enough of us speak up then things will change – they've got to.

//



## Understanding why

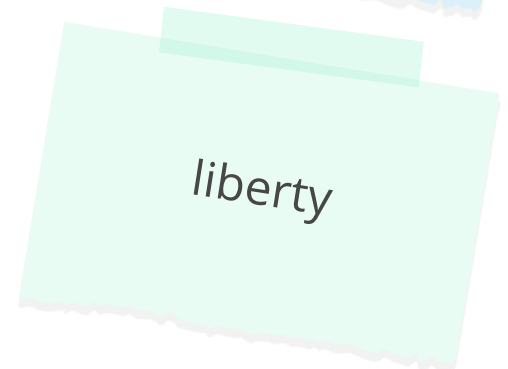
Imagine you are in NYC with your your niece and you pass the protest outside Wall Street. Explain to them what the stock exchange is, why the protestors are angry, and what they want to achieve. Give both sides of the argument and be as objective and unbiased as possible.





## Keeping the peace

Now you have an even harder job. Imagine you are Mayor of New York City! You have to make a speech about the protest to a large group of journalists at a press conference. Explain the situation, give some background about the history of Wall Street, present both sides of the argument and try to propose some solutions. Remember you want to try to keep the peace!





## Compare and contrast

Think about your home country in relation to the issues raised in the lesson.



1 What is the financial situation there?

2 What problems of inequality are there and what impact does it have on society?

3 Do the public react and protest? How do you think these issues should best be addressed?



## Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!



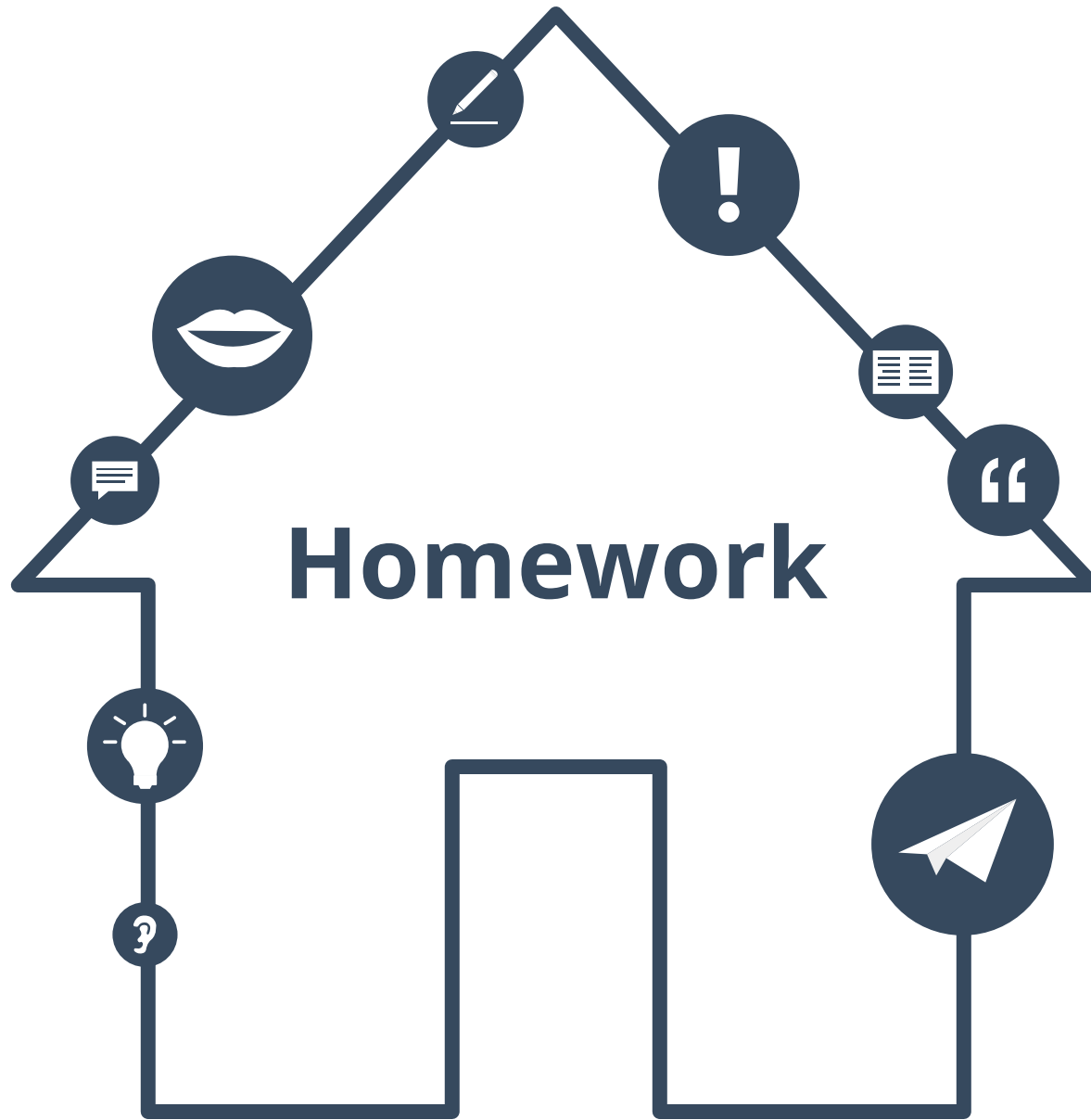


## Transcription

**Exercise p. 16**

Another curious fact about Wall Street's past is the origins of the street name itself. In fact, many centuries ago there used to be a wall running along that patch of ground, built by the Dutch to keep the Native Americans out. Now, many hundreds of years later, whilst the wall might be long gone, the name has stuck.

In recent years, Wall Street hit the headlines around the world as a result of a series of protests that were organised there. The Occupy Wall Street protest movement originated at Wall Street but became a global movement of people protesting inequality and the influence of big business and finance on democracy. The initial sit-in protest lasted for two months during the autumn of 2011 and many high-profile celebrities turned out to show their support. Although in the end the protest was broken up by the police the movement still continues today, united under a common goal to fight income inequality.







## Homework evaluation activity

**How did you find this lesson? Which parts were easiest? Which were most challenging? Give your feedback here!**

A vertical sheet of white paper with a spiral binding on the left side and horizontal lines for writing.



