Co-operation or competition?
Upper Intermediate  New Internationalist
Easier English ready lesson
Today’s lesson:

**Warmer:** discussion / error correction

**Vocabulary extension:** dictation / explanation / research / word stress

**Pre-reading:** predict focus questions / practice of comparatives and superlatives

**Reading:** groups read different texts

**Speaking / listening:** share information

**Writing:** pairs write letter to express views
Co-operation or competition – which is best?

In pairs, discuss which is best in different situations (work, different jobs, education, families/home, food production, international trade, politics etc) – and why.
Vocabulary

Divide your page into 3:

a) Words I know and can explain

b) Words I half-know but couldn’t explain

c) Words I don’t know

Now listen to your teacher and write the words in a), b) or c)
Then ask others in the class / look up in dictionaries to find out the meanings of words you’ve put in b) and c)
Now check spelling, meanings and pronunciation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>co-operative</th>
<th>welfare state</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to nationalize</td>
<td>democracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>resources</td>
<td>wealth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inflation</td>
<td>credit</td>
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<tr>
<td>textiles</td>
<td>evolution</td>
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<tr>
<td>weaver</td>
<td>revolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>capitalism</td>
<td>trading partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>socialism</td>
<td>solidarity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>community</td>
<td>greed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to empower</td>
<td>selfishness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What do you know about co-operatives?

1) Their history: how / where / when did they start?

2) What are the positives and negatives about co-operatives?

3) Which people started co-operatives, and why?

4) Are co-operatives a good idea?
Now look at these facts about co-operatives:

- [http://www.newint.org/features/2012/07/16/co-ops-the-facts/](http://www.newint.org/features/2012/07/16/co-ops-the-facts/)

In pairs, take it in turns to tell each other a fact from the diagrams.
How CO-OPS are building a better world

This is the UN international Year of Co-operatives. It couldn’t have come at a better time. Co-ops offer an alternative way of doing business where profits are enjoyed collectively, not just by a small group of shareholders. They can be small, local businesses or huge global companies.

THE WORLD’S TOP 300 CO-OPERATIVES

In 2008 the world’s largest 300 co-operatives had revenues of $1.6 trillion, about the same as Canada’s GDP last year.

US
JAPAN
CHINA
GERMANY
FRANCE
UK
ITALY
RUSSIA
GLOBAL 300
SPAN

The GDP of the world’s biggest economies’ in $ billion in 2008.

GOOD JOBS

Number of co-op jobs globally:

100 million

20% more than multinationals.

GOOD JOBS

In US

2,000,000

In France

1,000,000

In Indonesia

288,500

In Argentina

233,000

GOOD JOBS

In Kenya

250,000

 TYPES OF CO-OPERATIVES

PRODUCER Run by people like farmers, taxi drivers and fishers who provide similar goods and services. They can club together to buy supplies or market their businesses.

CONSUMER Provide goods and services to their members/owners. Can be huge or very small; anything from co-op supermarkets, housing co-ops or small-scale food co-ops.

WORKER Fire the boss! Often small businesses like print shops, daycare, or small manufacturing that are owned and managed by their employees.

FINANCIAL SERVICES Entities like credit unions and insurance co-ops offer banking, investment and insurance services to their members.

PURCHASING Owners of private businesses like hotels, hardware stores and grocery shops band together to buy in bulk, combining purchasing to get better prices.

MORE MEMBERS

Co-operative members worldwide

1 billion

People are looking to co-ops as an antidote to the insecurity and inequality of free market capitalism.

25% of CANADIANS are co-op members

33% of BOLIVIANS belong to co-operatives

42% of NORWEGIANS are co-op members

27% of MALAYSANS are members of co-operatives

33% of NEW ZEALANDERS are co-op members

ECONOMIC POWER

A force to be reckoned with: co-ops generate – and derivest – some serious moolah.

DENMARK – consumer co-ops have 36.4% of the consumer retail market

JAPAN – production by agricultural co-operatives is more than $90 billion a year

CÔTE D’IVOIRE – co-ops invested $26 million in schools, roads and clinics in 2002

VIETNAM – co-operatives produce 9.6% of the country’s GDP

AUSTRALIA – top 100 co-ops have an annual turnover of $14.7 billion

Sources: GlobalCoop Report 2010, global300.coop. See also, statistics from the International Co-operative Alliance and World Co-operative Alliance.
Reading / research:

In groups of 4, each learner will now read one of the following articles:

http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Issue_454
1/ Co-operative revolution part 1
2/ Co-operative revolution part 2
3/ What about co-ops in Cuba?
4/ Big thinkers on Co-operation

All learners make notes on the 4 question on previous slide
Speaking and listening:

In groups of 4, share the information you have read and discuss the 4 questions again:

1) The history of co-operatives: how / where / when did they start?
2) What are the positives and negatives about co-operatives?
3) Which people started co-operatives, and why? (see pictures on next slide)
4) Are co-operatives a good idea?
Big Thinkers on Co-operation

Robert Owen  Lynn Margulis

Friedrich Raffeisen  Elinor Ostrom

Peter Kropotkin  David Sloan Wilson
Imagine you have a friend who is interested in starting a co-operative business, but does not know much about co-operatives.

In pairs, write a letter to the friend, explaining about their history, how they work and why it would be a good idea.
Homework

Go to the New Internationalist site:

www.newint.org

And read a) the original articles:

http://www.newint.org/themes/politics/economics/

And b) the simplified ones:

http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Issue_454