Debt
The menu for today’s lesson:

**Starter**: Vocabulary focus 1

**Main course**: Read / gap-fill (compare Easier English and original New Internationalist articles)

**Accompanying vegetables**: Vocabulary focus 2

**Salad**: Discuss: infographics

**Dessert**: Writing about infographics
Vocabulary Match

1) bonds
2) debt
leveraging
3) shorting or
short-selling

a) when investors borrow an asset whose price they think will fall, in order to sell on. The aim is to buy back when the price drop occurs and keep the difference, returning the asset to the owner.

b) an IOU with a specific repayment date and fixed interest. They can be issued by companies, banks or governments to raise money and are traded by banks and investors.

c) refers to using debt (borrowed funds) to supplement investment which can amplify profits – and losses.

Check: http://newint.org/features/2013/07/01/debt-keynote/
Discuss:

What other words / phrases do you know related to debt and money?

eg. ...... a loan ......... a debt

What’s the difference between a loan and a mortgage?
One story that has remained in my mind tells of an impoverished paterfamilias who is forced by poverty into the clutches of a wealthy moneylender who extends credit at a scouring rate of interest (consider the pay-day loans offered by sharks to struggling families today). The poor man does everything to try to 1)_______ the loan while his family sinks ever deeper into the most abject want. >>
Eventually he is reduced to suppressing notions of his honour and starts avoiding the creditor. The closing scene has the moneylender at the threshold of the family’s hovel. Getting no response from those cowering inside he yanks down a curtain to take as part payment of the 2)_________ – only to find the household’s women huddled together to conceal the flesh left bare by the rags they are dressed in. This finally shames the moneylender, who turns around and 3)_________ empty handed.
Check your answers: in paragraph 5 of this article:

http://newint.org/features/2013/07/01/debt-keynote/

Now read the “Easier English” version, on the next slide, and fill the 6 gaps
I remember one story about a poor father who has to borrow money ..(1)..< a rich moneylender. The poor man has to pay a very ..(2)..< rate of interest, so his family gets poorer and poorer. At the end, he tries to avoid the moneylender. So the moneylender goes to the family’s poor house. He calls to get his ..(3)..<, but the family try to hide inside. So he pulls down a curtain to take as part of the ..(4)..<, but finds the very poor women behind it who are almost naked. The ..(5)..< feels ashamed he has taken everything from them, and goes away with ..(6)..<
The Easier English article is SO MUCH easier, isn’t it?

Now read the whole Easier English article, checking the 5 gaps and noting down some problems and solutions related to “debt”:

http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Debt_-_a_global_scam

Then click on the original at the bottom and read that again.
Discuss

1) Compare your notes on the problems and solutions associated with debt.

2) Then read the second article to find more problems and solutions – first the Easier English: http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Debt_and_austerity_are_now_in_Europe

and then the original: http://newint.org/features/2013/07/01/debt-europe-austerity/

(so much easier to read after reading the Easier English version – isn’t this a good way to improve your reading?)
Vocabulary focus 2:

Chose one of the 2 articles and focus on new vocabulary and phrases in the original article – check the meanings with the Easier English article.

eg. “impoverished paterfamilias” = “poor father”

Compare new vocabulary and phrases with other learners.
What do these charts show? – discuss and give examples
And what do these 2 charts show? – discuss and give examples
Writing:
Now, in pairs, choose one of the graphs / diagrams, and write a paragraph explaining what it shows, with clear examples. Compare with paragraphs that others have written.
Homework: reading and vocabulary

Go back to the Easier English New Internationalist wiki:
http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Main_Page

and select a few more articles that interest you – either from the magazine covers or from the “categories” on the left.

Read each article, then click on the original at the end and read that, then compare the language and learn some of the new vocabulary.