

FIRST VENTURE BANK

2437 COMMERCE STREET - NEW YORK, NY 10014

Thomas H. Johnson
Capital Incorporated
10 West 39th Street
Chicago, IL 60610

Dear Mr. Johnson,
Account No. 58756

We regret to **inform** you that you have an **overdraft** of \$200.00 on your account. On April 3, 2010, Total Value Office Supply **cashed a check** in the amount of \$500.00. Your account balance on that date was \$300.00. Your **upcoming** statement includes overdraft **charges** in the amount of \$35.00. To avoid further charges, please do not make any additional **withdrawals** or **transfers** until **compensating** for this overdraft. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us. For your convenience, customer service representatives are available twenty-four hours a day by phone.



Get Ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What happens if you write a check for more money than you have in your bank account?
- 2 What are the penalties for overrawing a bank account?

Reading

2 Read the notice from a bank. Then, choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the passage mainly about?
 - a missing check
 - an excessive bank fee
 - an overdrawn bank account
 - an upcoming account statement
- 2 How can Mr. Johnson compensate for the overdraft?
 - pay the bank \$235
 - pay the bank \$200
 - request a transfer
 - choose a different bank
- 3 What can be inferred about overdraft charges?
 - Some of them can be negotiated.
 - There are new charges for every overdraft.
 - They vary according to the overdraft amount.
 - Customer service representatives can block them.

Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-5) with the definitions (A-E).

1	— overdraft	4	— upcoming
2	— compensate	5	— cash a check
3	— transfer		

- appearing or arriving in the near future
- to receive money in exchange for a document
- a withdrawal that exceeds an account's balance
- to restore or replace something
- to move something from one place to another

FIRST VENTURE BANK

LIVE WORKSHEETS

4 Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank.

Word BANK

charges withdrawal inform

- 1 _____ the manager of the change.
- 2 Susan needs cash, so she went to her bank and made a(n) _____.
- 3 Tom paid a lot of extra _____ because of his overdraft.

5 Listen and read the notice again. What will show on Capital Incorporated's next statement?

Listening

6 Listen to a conversation between an accountant and a banker. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 ___ The woman's personal account was overdrawn.
- 2 ___ Both accounts now have \$500 in them.
- 3 ___ The man refunded the overdraft charges.

7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

Banker: First Venture Bank. How may I help you?

Accountant: Hi. This is Wendy from Capital Incorporated. I just received an 1 _____ from you.

Banker: I can help you with that. What is your 2 _____?

Accountant: It's 58756. We have a second account with you 3 _____.

Banker: Let me see ... Your company's other account has a balance of \$1000.00.

Accountant: Good. Can I 4 _____ \$500 into the overdrawn account?

Banker: 5 _____. Is there anything else I can help you with today?

Accountant: No, 6 _____. Thanks.

Speaking

8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then switch roles.

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

I just received an overdraft notice ...

What is your account number?

Can I transfer ...?

Student A: You are calling a bank. Talk to Student B about:

- an overdraft
- another account
- paying for the overdraft

Student B: You are a banker. Answer Student A's questions.

Writing

9 Use the notice and the conversation from Task 8 to fill out the email. Make up a name for the accountant.

FROM: _____, Accountant
TO: _____, Manager
RE: an overdraft

Dear _____,

I'm writing to inform you of an overdraft and what I did to compensate for it. _____

Cordially,

13 Costs



Get Ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 How do companies set prices?
- 2 How can companies get in trouble for their prices?

Reading

2 Read the magazine article. Then, choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the passage mainly about?
 - setting sales prices
 - influencing competitors
 - lowering fixed expenses
 - preventing rising expenses
- 2 Businesses are only allowed to lower prices if
 - they are dumping
 - they remain above their costs
 - they are being sued
 - their competitors agree
- 3 What can be inferred about dumping?
 - It is considered ethical.
 - It is legal in some countries.
 - It involves the markup method.
 - It doesn't account for fixed expenses.



Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-4) with the definitions (A-D).

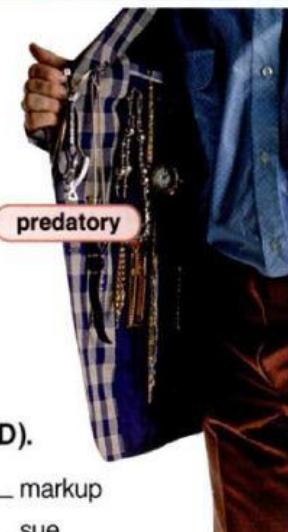
1	— sales price	3	— markup
2	— dumping	4	— sue

A an amount added to costs when setting prices
B the amount a business charges for product
C setting a price below costs
D to initiate legal proceedings against someone



Dumping

Sometimes, businesses try to gain an advantage by selling **below cost**. This is called dumping. Many countries have passed laws against dumping. It is a **predatory** pricing practice because companies use it to drive competitors **out of business**. Businesses can only lower their prices down to their costs. Otherwise, someone can **sue** them.



4 Fill in the blanks with the correct words and phrases from the word bank.

Word BANK

below cost predatory
cost-plus method out of business

- 1 Low prices can drive competitors _____.
- 2 Dumping is considered a _____ pricing practice.
- 3 The _____ involves adding a certain percentage.
- 4 The company is being sued because it was pricing _____.

5 Listen and read the article again. What illegal practice do some businesses use and why?

Listening

6 Listen to a conversation between two accountants. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 The woman is surprised by the lawsuit.
- 2 The man often makes purchases from the company.
- 3 The woman thinks the company was acting against the law.

7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

Accountant 1: Did you hear about Smithson Technologies?

Accountant 2: No. Did something 1 _____ them?

Accountant 1: They're 2 _____.

Accountant 2: Really? I hadn't heard that. Why?

Accountant 1: The lawsuit says they were dumping. It doesn't 3 _____ me. Their prices seemed too low.

Accountant 2: Personally, I think it's great when a company can offer a 4 _____ product for less money.

Accountant 1: But if they're selling 5 _____, it's against the pricing laws.

Accountant 2: I see 6 _____. Maybe they were trying to drive their competitors out of business.

Speaking

8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then switch roles.

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

Did you hear about ...?

They're getting sued.

It doesn't surprise me. Their prices ...

Student A: You are an accountant. Talk to Student B about:

- a lawsuit
- reasons for it
- pricing laws

Student B: You are an accountant. Answer Student A's questions.

Writing

9 Use the conversation from Task 8 to fill out the email. Make up names for the accountant and manager.

FROM: _____, Accountant
TO: _____, Manager
RE: dumping

Dear _____

As you requested, here is some information about pricing laws.

Cordially,