

WARM UP

1 Have you heard of the Occupy movement? Do you know what the movement's principles and beliefs are? Read the introduction to check.

✦ **Adbusters**, based in Canada, is a not-for-profit magazine which focuses on how commercialism is destroying our physical and cultural environment. It has organized social marketing campaigns, such as Buy Nothing Day and Digital Detox Week.

■ OCCUPY WALL STREET

'Occupy Wall Street', which started on 17th September 2011, was the first protest from the Occupy movement, an international protest movement against social and economic inequality, particularly that caused by the corruption and influence of corporations on governments. Many other protests and occupations then took place across the world. This article is about the first day of the protest in New York.

Hundreds of protesters descend to 'Occupy Wall Street'

[17th September 2011] Hundreds of demonstrators took to the streets of Manhattan's financial district on Saturday in a largely peaceful protest aimed at drawing attention to the role powerful financial interests played in creating America's economic disaster.

Modeled on the "Arab Spring" uprisings, Occupy Wall Street is a "leaderless resistance movement" coordinated through Twitter, Facebook and other social media tools. Activist magazine *Adbusters** came up with idea and two months ago called for people to take part in a September 17 demonstration in lower Manhattan.



Early on Saturday morning, police barricaded off Wall Street, erecting barriers around the iconic Wall Street bull statue that protestors had planned to make their rallying point. (1) By 2 p.m., nearly two dozen uniformed police officers surrounded the bull, while others worked to disperse the crowd.

"Something needs to change," said one protester, who declined to give his name and covered half his face with a bandanna. "We need an economy for the people and by the people, not for the rich and by the rich." Josh Dworning, a 20-year-old college student who paid \$300 for a 24-hour train ride from Florida to New

York, said: "I heard about the protest and I just really agreed that there's widespread discontent with the banks and corporations. (2)

Kalle Lasn, the editor-in-chief of *Adbusters*, said the editors there are angry that leaders in the financial sector "had not been brought to justice". In an interview before the event, Lasn said: "We need to shake up the corporate-driven capitalist system we're in. (3) He is hoping that safety won't be an issue. A "Gandhi-like peaceful protest" is the only way the event will work, he says. (4) "It takes a lot to rise up and reform the global economic system," Lasn says. "And maybe this time we fail. (5)

Source: <http://money.cnn.com/>

READING COMPREHENSION

2 **FCE** Read the article and choose the best sentence to fill each gap. There is one extra sentence you do not need.

- a To do that, we need something radical.
- b But if we do, we're just setting the tone for the next revolution.
- c Protestors instead took to the surrounding streets, blocking traffic.
- d Demonstrators moved their protest to another park nearby.
- e He acknowledges, however, that central control is impossible over a group that organizers hope will reach 20,000.
- f I'm no crazy radical, just a student who believes in something.

INTERNET RESEARCH/WRITING

3 Find out about another occupy protest (in your country or elsewhere) and write a short report including the following points:

- the location and length of the occupation;
- the number and type of protesters involved;
- the reaction from the police, media and politicians.