

A history of microfinance



A You have a good idea for a small business, but no money. Who would you approach for a loan? What are the pros and cons of borrowing from:

- your family?
- a friend?
- a bank?

B Match the words (1–10) to the definitions (a–j).

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 credit | a idea |
| 2 concept | b someone who begins a business |
| 3 consistent | c started an organisation |
| 4 entrepreneur | d future |
| 5 prospective | e money that is borrowed |
| 6 initial | f money charged by a bank for a loan |
| 7 founded | g guessed |
| 8 recovery | h not changing |
| 9 estimated | i first |
| 10 interest | j getting back |

C Listen to the introduction to a lecture on microfinance and answer these questions.

- 1 What is microfinance?
- 2 What aspect of microfinance will the talk focus on?
- 3 What order do you expect the lecture to follow, e.g. cause–effect, pro–con, chronological?
- 4 Look at the words in the box. Circle the words and expressions that you expect to hear.

alternatively as a result first next then
 although consequently in 1961 on the other hand

D Listen to the lecture and decide whether the statements are correct (C) or incorrect (I). Correct the incorrect sentences as you listen.

- 1 Microfinance institutions lend money for food, water and clothing.
- 2 Law student Joseph Blatchford raised \$90,000 to start a community development programme to help the poor to start their own businesses.
- 3 When Dr Muhammad Yunus lent money to groups of women, the small loans improved their lives and were paid back on time and with interest.
- 4 Peer pressure from other members of the group had no effect on repayment rates.
- 5 Most of the loans from the Grameen Bank have been repaid.
- 6 The majority of Grameen Bank's members are men.