

Exercise 1

Read the passage quickly to know – What’s gone wrong, for the newspapers to report?

Exercise 2

Read the passage again, and fill in the column of the table below with information from that passage. Leave the second column blank.

	Passage from <i>Little Dorrit</i> by Charles Dickens	Article from <i>The Guardian</i> newspaper
Who is the passage about? (name)	Mr Merdle	Bernard Madoff
What did this person do wrong?	Swindled ‘multitudes’ (15) through ‘forgery and robbery’ (23-24)	‘paid investors with money that wasn’t there’ (12-13), ie pyramid scheme
How long was he in business?	We don’t know, but it must have been many years.	‘almost 50 years’ (25)
Was he rich when he started his business?	‘he had sprung from nothing’ (6) ‘he had never had any money of his own’ (9-10)	Presumably not, as he started the business with \$5,000 (25)
How was he regarded in society? Did he hold any respected positions in society?	Had held ‘magnificent feasts’(18) and was ‘worshipped’ (19) ‘on his pedestal’ (20); Lines 24-30 for his position in high society & recognition	‘One of Wall St’s most respected dealers’ (1) ‘former chairman of the Nasdaq stock market (4)
What do you know about his family circumstances?	Nothing mentioned here.	Sons Andrew & Mark (17)
How quickly did his business collapse?	It took 1 day from his death to people to realise that the whole business was a fraud. Rumours built up and spread very quickly.	Less than 1 month (19-23)
Did this collapse have many victims? What do you know about them?	A ‘multitude’, ‘in every profession and trade’, ‘old people’, ‘women and children’ (14-18)	Nothing about victims from the text.

Exercise 3

Match up with colleagues who have read the other passage to complete the second column. Ask for information, and give information you are asked for. Try and give the information in your own words, retelling rather than reading out parts of your passage.