1. **The Future of Properity**

**contentious** /kEn'tenSEs/  
[adj.] likely to cause disgreement between people.  
a contentious issue.  
**contest** [n.]  
a competition in which people try to win sth

**cockroach:** 蟑螂

**assess**[vt.] to make a judgement about the nature or quality of sb/sth

**immense**   
[adj.] extremely large or great  
There is still an immense amount of work to be done.  
The benefits are immenese.

**gleam**[vi.] to shine with a pale clear light

**gleaming** [adj.]

**outlandish**[adj] (usually disapproving) strange or extremely unusual  
outlandish costumes / ideas.

**flex**[vt.] to bend, move or stretch an arm or a leg, especially in order to prepare for a physical activity.  
flex your muscles

**polarise /**'pEuleraIz**/**[vt] to separate or make people separate into two groups with completely opposite opinions.  
**polarisation** [n.]

**embark**   
[vt.vi.] to get onto a ship; to put sth onto a ship  
They embarked the troops by night.

**prairie**[C.] a flat wide area of land in N America, without many trees and covered with grass

**splendour**   
[U.] grand and impressive beauty

**squalor /**'skwOlE/[U.] dirty and unpleasant conditions  
He had lost his job and was living in squalor.

**precipice /**'precEpIs**/**[n.] a very steep side of a cliff, mountain or rock  
